

Telecom to cut prices as communications duopoly ends



Lilly: decisions delighting Tory sell-off lobby

BRITAIN'S telephone system is to be opened up to wider competition in a move aimed at bringing cheaper phone calls for everyone and improved services. The telecommunications "duopoly" that allows only British Telecom and Mercury to supply services is to be scrapped, Peter Lilly, the trade secretary, told MPs. Other firms will be able to run new telecommunications networks. The objective is to increase choice, promote enterprise and cut prices.

More competition, better services and cheaper calls are on their way in government moves to improve the telecommunications network, Philip Webster and Philip Bassett report

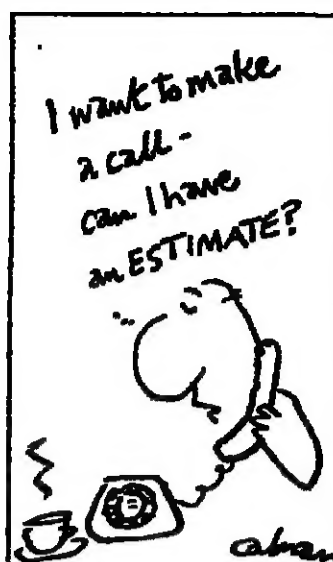
up to the rate of inflation, minus 4.5 per cent. Mr Lilly also said he wanted a start to cutting the price of international calls by 10 per cent "as soon as possible". "Low users will pay only half the standard rental and they will get 30 free call units every quarter. Virtually everyone will now benefit from cheaper telephone calls," he said.

Mr Lilly's plans were set out in a white paper *Competition and choice: telecommunications policy for the 1990s*. He said: "In future the Government will consider all licence applications on their merits." His decision delighted the

domestic calls. When that was taken into account domestic calls would be no better off. The changes proposed include the introduction of portable numbers, enabling customers to change their network without changing their number. Eventually the aim would be to allow customers to move home without changing their number. Because many people, especially the elderly and disabled, use the telephone as a lifeline, the government does not want to see any increase in telephone standing charges leading to them being forced to give up the phone. People who do not make much use of their phones would have a rental set at half the standard level. BT will also provide low users with 30 free call units per quarter. This scheme should be in place this year.

In order not to deter people from getting telephones, BT intends to introduce a scheme to spread the payment of connection charges over a "reasonable" but as yet unspecified period. Mr Lilly said that all firms would benefit from the lower prices. "Those businesses that use the telephone most can expect to benefit from the volume discounts which BT will offer in the future." "To help the cable companies realise their full potential, we have decided to let them provide telephone services in their own right rather than as an agent of BT or Mercury. They will now be able to provide a complete package to the customer."

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Duopoly to end, page 25
Defeat for BT, page 27



Iraqi mission to Iran as rebels claim six towns

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS FIERCE fighting raged through a broad swath of Iraq yesterday, Saddam Hammadi, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, arrived unexpectedly in Iraq with a message from President Saddam Hussein. His visit came as Iraq formally renounced its claim to Kuwait and said it was returning all property taken from the emirate. Mr Hammadi's visit came "without advance notice", the Iranian news agency, Iran, said. He was accompanied by Muhammad Saïd al-Sahaf, the foreign minister, prompting speculation that Baghdad is appealing to Tehran not to help the uprising.

John Major flies to the Gulf today from talks in Moscow with President Gorbachev. He will become the first leader of the allied coalition to enter the liberated Kuwait City, where an indefinite 10pm-4am curfew was imposed yesterday. Despite sporadic outbursts of violence as armed bands of resistance fighters pay off scores with suspected collaborators, Mr Major intends to see for himself the devastation of the rescued city.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, is also beginning a ten-day tour of the Middle East tomorrow to try to resuscitate the Arab-Israeli peace process. David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, had talks with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, on this in London yesterday. Baghdad radio said yesterday that Iraq had decided to return all property seized after its invasion of Kuwait, and renounced its claim to the emirate. Iraq's foreign ministry was instructed to inform the UN of the decision.

INSIDE

Heathrow open to all

Landing slots at Heathrow airport, London, are to be thrown open to the highest bidder in a decision which brought the government criticism from some airlines and from MPs on both sides of the House. It also brought a promise from Richard Branson that he would cut transatlantic fares on Virgin Airways by 15 per cent. Page 24

Poll upset
The Liberal Democrats appeared to be close to achieving a by-election upset after an opinion poll indicated that they could beat the Conservative majority in the Ribbles Valley ballot tomorrow. Page 2

Teacher shot
A history master was reported to be in a serious condition after being shot during lessons at an independent school in Bristol. A boy, was being questioned by police. Page 2

Orkney order
A children's panel at Kirkwall, Orkney, ordered that nine children at the centre of ritual sexual abuse claims be kept in care for a further 21 days after a hearing was given details of the allegations. Page 5

Change of code
Ellery Hanley, the Great Britain rugby league captain, has signed to play American football for the newly formed London Monarchs. Page 42

Accountancy exams
Results of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants' examination are published today. Page 37

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Pleased to meet you: President Gorbachev greeting John Major at the Kremlin yesterday

Nine Britons freed as Baghdad releases PoWs

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NINE British prisoners of war were among the 35 handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Baghdad yesterday. Iraq has now claimed that it has freed all allied prisoners. The Ministry of Defence said: "We have been informed that there are no other prisoners of war." In Washington, there was cautious optimism that all American prisoners had been released.

However, there was still no sign of a release of the thousands of Kuwaiti citizens believed to have been taken to Baghdad. Doubts also remained over the whereabouts of special forces' personnel, who may have been captured but whose names have not been officially released.

Mr Gnaeding said the Red Cross was still trying to establish how many Kuwaitis were being held in Iraq. Kuwait officials had said Iraq was holding 22,000 civilians. The Red Cross is also seeking news of the fate of 27 Western journalists from Kuwait reported missing since Sunday near Basra.

Of the 35 allied prisoners freed yesterday, 15 were Americans, nine Britons, nine Saudi Arabians, one Kuwaiti and one Italian. Andreas Gnaeding, the chief Red Cross representative for the Middle East, said: "They all looked very happy to me."

The MoD said that the names of the Britons would not be released until their next of kin had been informed. Plans to fly them immediately to Saudi Arabia, in the same planes the Red Cross would use to deliver 294 Iraqi prisoners held by the allies, were delayed by poor weather conditions in Baghdad. An

American official in Riyadh said: "The planes are ready, the prisoners are ready. The problem is the weather in Baghdad. The winds are tremendous."

Reporters missing, page 8

McMahon quits after Midland cut

SIR Peter Walters, the former chairman of British Petroleum, is to become chairman of the Midland Bank after the departure was announced yesterday of Sir Kit McMahon (Neil Bennett writes).

Sir Kit resigned as chairman and chief executive of Midland after it became the first British bank in 50 years to cut its dividend. It became apparent yesterday that Sir Kit sought the help of the Bank of

England in January to find a successor after the failure to complete merger talks with Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in December. The Bank of England suggested Brian Pearce, finance director at Barclays Bank, who will take over as chief executive at Midland today.

A burst of friendly fire from Sir Kingsley

By JOE JOSEPH



WHEN Mary Nicholson led the loyal toast at yesterday's Foyles literary lunch in honour of Sir Kingsley Amis and raised her glass to "The Queen", one thought one heard a voice at the top table add, "and all who dream of her". Sir Kingsley is shy neither of admitting that he dreams of the Queen and Mrs Thatcher, or of defending his spiky asides about former friends who might not have twigged that falling to buy Amis a drink might later earn them a poisoned paragraph in his newly published *Memoirs*.

Awkwardly, some of the men Amis has lambasted now say that Amis has never met him. Scanning a wine list before lunch and scanning an attentive young lady that "I think we'd better have Krug", while despatching another off to get a refill before the lunch gong rang

("Whoops, I'm in danger of missing my second whisky"), Sir Kingsley accused his victims of having faulty and selective memories. "Remember how Henry V forgot Falstaff - 'I know thee not old man' - because it was too embarrassing to remember him?"

Sir Kingsley also seemed loath to receive as good as he gave. Mrs Nicholson - one of Amis' former English lit students and once babysitter to the young Amis - informed the guests that she had wanted to give a short welcoming speech yesterday but was told by Amis that "you can't just give me a short speech. I want you to say lots of wonderful things about me". Sir Kingsley sat beside her shaking his head furiously, eyes popping in theatrical indignation, like an MP on *Question Time* whose remarks have been misconstrued by another speaker.

'Dalek' hunt as kidnap wife is freed

By PETER VICTOR

THE wife of a millionaire was freed yesterday after a five-day kidnap ordeal during which she was kept in chains. Margaret Smith, aged 49, who was held in an unfurnished room, said she had failed to attract a passing milkman's attention on Monday morning and thought "trust me to get a deaf one". Mrs Smith was rescued early yesterday when two passing milkmen did her screams for help from a flat above a shop in Old High Street, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and alerted police. "I would like to say thank you to the police for getting me here, but mostly I have to thank the milkman," she told a news conference.

Hertfordshire police admitted last night that they had been alerted five days ago to reports that a woman had been heard crying for help near the flat where Mrs Smith was found. Officers went to a property near by and reported it empty. Kairin Patel, who runs a newsagents in the Old High Street, said two boys playing outside her shop on Friday heard a woman crying and called police. David Cansdale, assistant chief constable of Hertfordshire, said: "The matter is being looked into by a senior officer as a matter of urgency." He said that the premises checked by the officers were not those in which Mrs Smith was being held. Mrs Smith was yesterday reunited with her husband

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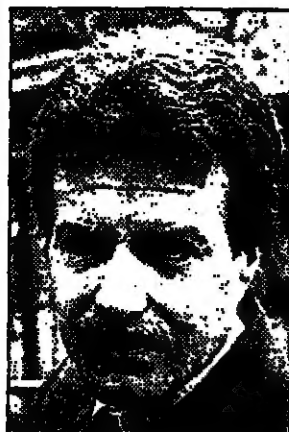
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Democrat's by-election taxation comment delights Tories



Carr comments seen as first campaign slip

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrat candidate in the Ribbles Valley by-election yesterday admitted that the average breadwinner would face a bill of about £600 a year under his party's plans for a local income tax in place of the poll tax.

This is about £250 more than this year's community charge in the area and the Conservatives were quick to pounce on what they regarded as the first slip in their main challenger's campaign.

Nigel Evans, who is defending a 19,500 majority in the largely rural north Lancashire seat, said the

figures showed that giving councils power over tax levels would be a disaster. The Tories feel that the disclosures about the likely impact of the Liberal Democrat formula for local taxation seem likely to check the advance of an electoral bandwagon that has been gathering speed since the weekend. The Tories plan to exploit them over the final hours of campaigning.

An opinion poll published last night underlined the threat Mike Carr now poses to Mr Evans' chances of retaining the tenth safest Tory seat in the country. The survey for the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* suggested that the Liberal Democrats have

brushed aside Labour and are within hailing distance of the Conservatives. It showed a big shift in support since a survey for the same newspaper carried out at the start of the campaign. The figures for the three main parties were: Conservatives 39 per cent (down 5), Liberal Democrats 24 per cent (up 10) and Labour 16 per cent (down 9).

Both polls were carried out by college students and the methodology is open to criticism. However, the latest findings will have a big impact locally and will help the centre party in its attempt to persuade Labour supporters to vote tactically to stop Mr Evans.

The Liberal Democrats also released canvass figures yesterday, a notoriously unreliable guide, putting them five points behind the Tories.

On his first visit to the constituency yesterday, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, was telling voters that a defeat for the Tories would kill the poll tax stone-dead. The inscription on its tombstone would be "killed in Clitheroe". Tory jitters surfaced in an attempt by Mr Evans to talk up the Labour vote. He said it had a solid block of support which would be swayed into tactical voting.

The indications of the likely

effect of a local income tax in Ribbles Valley came after Mr Carr's statement at a public meeting some days ago that the rate for the eastern half of the constituency would have to be 5.6p in the pound to raise the necessary revenue.

The Conservatives who have been forced onto the defensive by big increases in local poll tax bills, counter-attacked. Mr Evans said that the bill for a police constable married to a teacher, with a daughter working as a junior nurse, would be more than £1,900. At his morning press conference, Mr Carr accepted that a bill of £550 to £600 was probably right

for the average tax payer. "It does not take a mathematical genius to calculate that. But if you are not an income tax payer, you won't pay it," Mr Evans said. "After weeks of waiting the Liberal Democrats have finally given us a figure for their local income tax. The average earner in this constituency would pay more in local income tax than he would in poll tax. That's bad enough but for two-car couples it would be a disaster."

General Election 1987: D Waddington (C) 30,136 60.9 percent; M Carr (SDP) 10,608 21.4 percent; G Pope (Lab) 8,781 17.7 percent. C Maj 19,528.

Treasury may step in to halt big cut in armed services

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury is expected to bail out the Ministry of Defence with a substantial amount of extra money to save the three armed services from having to make huge cuts in the next financial year to meet a diminishing budget, according to Whitehall sources yesterday.

The government will cite Operation Granby, Britain's war effort in the Gulf, as the reason for the temporary boost to the defence budget. Even though part of the cost of the war will be met by Germany, Japan, Kuwait and other countries, the cash available for the 1991/2 defence budget will not meet demands. "We're basically starting off the new financial year in a state of bankruptcy," one Whitehall source said.

The "options for change"

defence review, which was supposed to reshape Britain's forces and produce substantial savings in the longer term, has been put on hold to give time for the defence ministry to assess the lessons learned from the war with Iraq.

There is, however, a growing belief that the government will be unable to carry out plans already announced, including a reduction in the army to about 120,000 men and women, unless Britain is to opt out of any future Gulf-type conflict. Whitehall officials stressed that if the army had been reduced to 120,000 before the Gulf war began, Britain would not have been able to send an armoured division to Saudi Arabia.

Part of the options for change review focused on the likely expansion of reserve forces. But in the Gulf war, government ministers showed extreme reluctance to turn to reserves, Whitehall sources said. Since the end of the Cold War, Britain has assumed there would be at least 90 days in which to respond to a developing East/West conflict in central Europe, with the deployment of reinforcements, including reserves, to Germany.

Yet during the Gulf conflict, ministers did not even consider a call-up of reserves until well after 90 days had passed since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, the sources said. Even then, the reserves had to be asked if they wanted to volunteer before they were sent call-up papers.

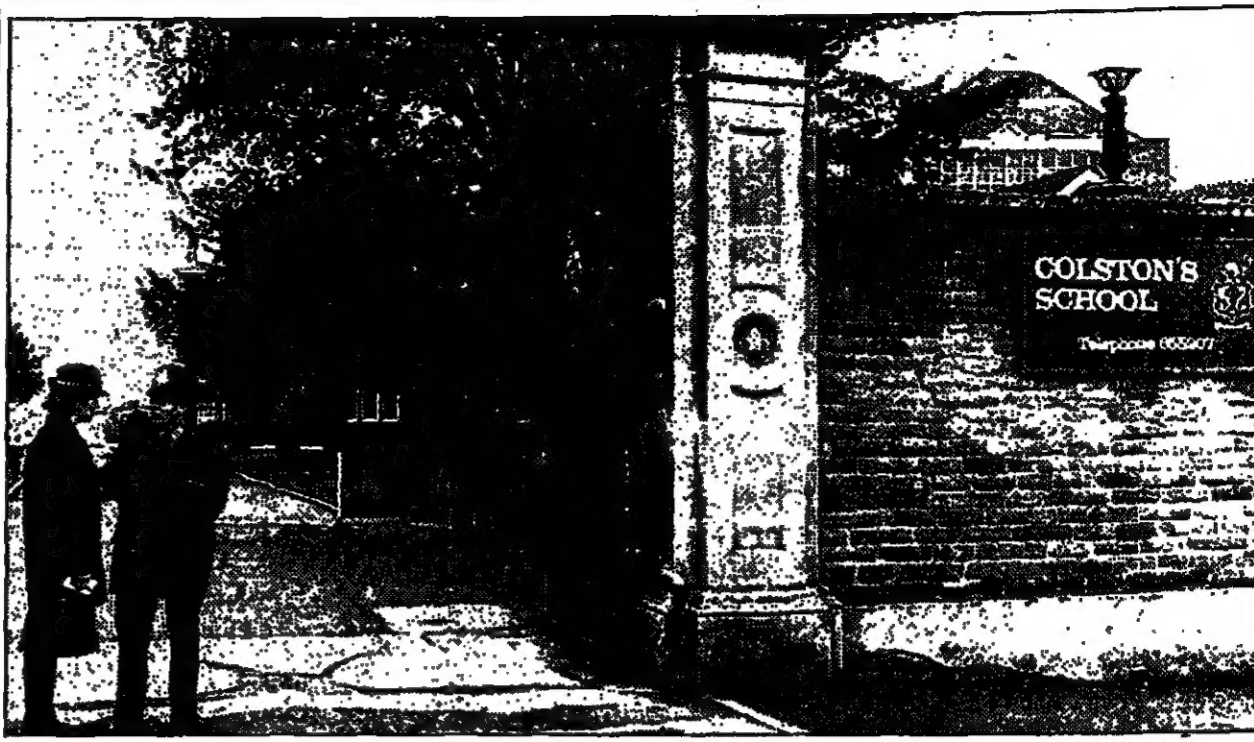
Sources said that if members of the Territorial Army

had been sent to the Gulf, they would have fitted in well with the regular troops. Because of the reluctance to use reserves, except in the medical field, the 27,000 men sent to the Gulf, as part of the 1st Armoured Division, all had to come from the British Army of the Rhine, reducing its presence in Germany by half. As a precaution, reserve units were put on standby to go to Saudi Arabia from the very beginning of the confrontation with Iraq. They were never sent.

The options for change review will now take place under a different set of circumstances. Britain is expected to send military assistance teams to the Gulf states and possibly Kuwait to provide training. The Whitehall sources said that if ministers persisted with the previous plan to cut the army to 120,000, however, even this proposal would be difficult to fulfill. There would not be sufficient manpower.

The government, meanwhile, would have to abandon the idea of a "peace dividend" for the foreseeable future. Extra Treasury money would be needed to prop up the defence budget, the sources said, and to help resupply the forces once they returned to Germany from the Gulf.

One positive aspect now under consideration is the possibility of carrying out training exercises in the Gulf region. With large-scale training becoming more difficult in Germany, the open desert areas of Saudi Arabia are being seen as ideal training grounds.



Police officers standing guard outside Colston's school after the shooting yesterday of teacher Roderic Findlay, below.

Teacher shot in classroom attack

By CRAIG SETON

A TEACHER at a private school was shot and seriously wounded yesterday when a boy entered the class where he was teaching 20 children and opened fire with a shotgun.

The shooting happened yesterday morning at the 300-pupil Colston's school, Stapleton, Bristol. Roderic Findlay, aged 49, a history master, collapsed with gunshot injuries to his chest and arm during the attack and was later reported to be in a serious condition at the city's Frenchay hospital after emergency surgery. No one else was injured.

Avon and Somerset police said that several shots had been fired in the school building and on the campus. It is believed that David Fincott,

the deputy headmaster, had to jump out of the way of one of the shots. Police sealed off the school grounds and, during a search, a boy was taken into custody after giving himself up to a dog handler. Two shotguns were later recovered.

A police spokesman said detectives were investigating the motive for the attack and added: "The master was teaching a class of 20 pupils at the time. Many of the children were shocked, but otherwise unhurt." John Mason, an assistant bursar at the £6,600-a-year boarding school, said no immediate statement would be made.

Last night a boy was being questioned by detectives at the city's St George police station.



Insurers keep Aids questions

An explosion of Aids or HIV infection among heterosexuals in Britain is unlikely on the basis of current evidence, according to the Institute of Actuaries.

Most cases of HIV infection last year were among homosexual men, and insurance companies should continue to question individuals about their sexual lifestyles, an institute bulletin says.

"Despite the undisputed growth in heterosexual cases, the evidence to support the hypothesis of a 'heterosexual explosion' of Aids cases is as yet equivocal," it says.

Murder charge

Peter Burke, aged 54, a former teacher from Galway, appeared in the special criminal court in Dublin yesterday charged with the murder of Jerome O'Connor, aged 58, who was shot dead when he left a Galway bank in 1974. Burke, who jumped bail before his trial 17 years ago, was arrested in Galway on Saturday. He was yesterday remanded in custody until March 19.

Police bailed

Three detectives involved in questioning the Guildford Four were remanded on bail in their absence by Bow Street magistrates' court in London yesterday afternoon charged with conspiring to pervert the course of justice. The three, all from Surrey, are former Detective Chief Inspector Thomas Style, former Detective Sergeant John Donaldson and Detective Constable Vernon Atwell.

Exmoor enquiry

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has called a public enquiry into plans to build a house on national park land at Exmoor a few miles from a thatched cottage that he owns and uses as a country retreat. Mr Heseltine was reported to have declared an interest, but John Milton, chairman of Exmoor national park committee, said yesterday that it was pure chance that he had a house nearby.

Dearer funerals

Cremation costs will rise because of stricter environmental controls, the National Association of Funeral Directors was told yesterday. Peter Wilson, of the Federation of British Cremation Authorities, said many crematoria will have to replace incinerators and carry out extensive building alterations.

Security call after latest IRA bombing

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A FURTHER review of security was needed at the Shorts Brothers aerospace complex in east Belfast, the armed forces minister said yesterday. Archie Hamilton, on a brief visit to Northern Ireland, was speaking after an IRA bomb exploded in a technical drawing office at 8am as workers were being evacuated following a warning call to the Samaritans.

The bomb, thought to weigh 5lb, caused slight damage and no one was injured. There have been several security reviews at the plant in the past year. Peter Robinson, MP for east Belfast, said that the company's vetting system must also be reviewed. The company employs 7,000, almost all of them Protestants.

The attack is the fifth by the IRA on Shorts in two years. The IRA regards the plant as a legitimate target because it is a big employer of Protestants and because it carries out government defence contracts.

Yesterday's bombing followed a weekend during which loyalist paramilitaries killed five people and seriously wounded another. They killed four Roman Catholics at a public house in Cappagh, co Tyrone, on Sunday night and a taxi driver in Belfast on Monday.

Detectives have established a definite link between the pub killings and seven previous murders, it was learnt last night. Two rifles used by the killers were also used in the murders of other Catholics over the past two years.

Meanwhile, it was announced yesterday that an Ulster Defence Regiment soldier has died from his wounds sustained in an IRA mortar attack on a patrol near Armagh City on Friday in which one other soldier died at the scene. A third remains seriously ill in hospital.

The spate of killings by loyalists has led to claims that a makeshift unit operating outside the siege of the two main Protestant paramilitary groups, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Freedom Fighters, might be responsible. Cecil Walker, Ulster Unionist MP for north Belfast, said that his investigations had convinced him there was a breakaway group at work. However, security sources have dismissed the claims, and pointed out that recent reorganisations within loyalist groups creating a cell structure similar to that practised by the IRA was making it more difficult to identify gunmen and bring them to justice.

Bristol increases poll tax by £99

By RAY CLANCY

BRISTOL and Birmingham were last night the latest councils to join the last-minute rush to set this year's poll tax before the Sunday deadline, as anti-poll tax protesters revealed plans for a second mass demonstration.

Hested debates accompanied the decisions, with Bristol increasing its figure by almost £100 and Birmingham trying to keep its charge down to avoid capping. Meanwhile, Liverpool councillors face a tough debate today as town hall workers threaten to strike for 24 hours in protest at plans to axe 1,500 jobs in a bid to keep the poll tax down.

Labour-controlled Bristol last night set a poll tax of £524, up £99 on last year's, despite agreeing a lower budget than

had been expected. By Sunday's deadline, the full picture of the second year of the tax in England and Wales should have emerged, with many councils increasing the charge.

In Bristol, councillors debated an overall budget of £59.4 million compared with £56.6 million in 1990/91 and a standstill proposed spending plan of £67 million.

A cut in Bristol's grant from the government, higher non-payment figures than had been estimated and a larger contribution to county spending accounted for most of the proposed £99 per head rise in poll tax. A council spokesman said that the government grant for 1991/92 was £12 million lower, which represented an extra £44 per head on the poll

tax, and an additional £21 million contribution to county services put £62 on the poll tax. On top of this, the council had underestimated non-payment, which would add £43.

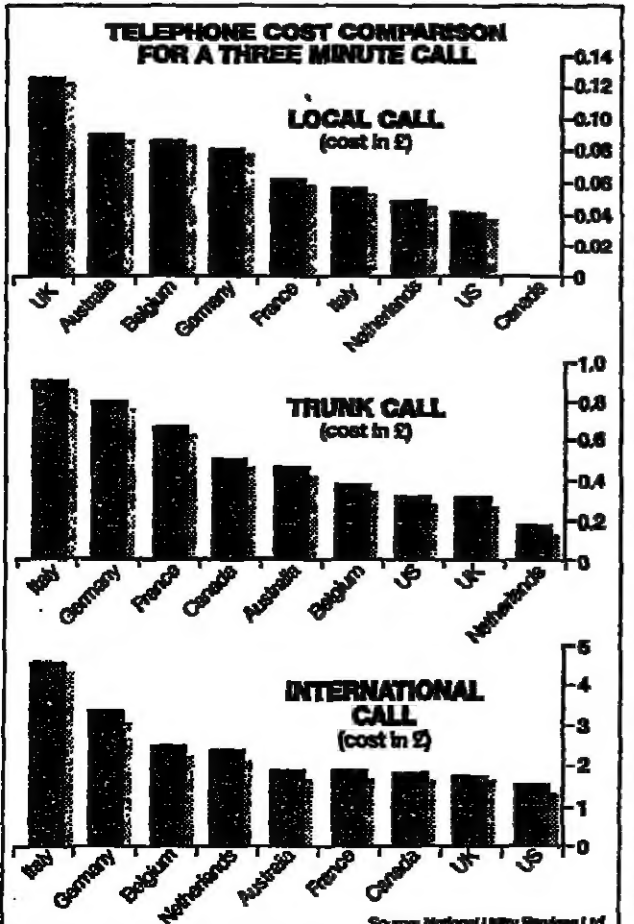
The decision to spend £3 million more on services than last year added £7 to the charge, giving a total of £156 a head, which was reduced to an overall extra £99 by revenue from the business rate amounting to £57 per head.

Liverpool city council meets today to try to set its poll tax. Most of the authority's 29,000 workers are expected to take part in a one-day strike in protest at the ruling Labour group's proposal to cut 1,500 jobs in a package aimed at saving £23

million. Labour is split over the plans.

Birmingham's Labour-run city council was expected to set a poll tax rate of £406 at a budget meeting last night.

Organisers of the national anti-poll tax demonstration in London later this month said yesterday there would be no repeat of last year's riots. Steve Nally, secretary of the all-Britain anti-poll tax federation, predicted at a Westminster press conference that between 50,000 and 100,000 people would take part. Organisers have had talks with police about arrangements for the demonstration on March 23. He said the federation would ensure the poll tax was the main issue at any forthcoming election.



Britain rings up dearest local calls

By ALICE THOMSON

LOCAL telephone calls are more expensive in Britain than in any other major industrialised nation, according to a new survey. While the majority of UK charges remain competitive, the survey shows British consumers to be at a distinct disadvantage when calling locally.

A local call in Britain costs twice as much as a call of the same duration in France, Italy or the Netherlands. A three-minute local call in Britain will cost 12p, while it costs 4p in America and in Canada local calls are free.

A local telex in Britain conversely costs only 10p, the lowest of any industrialised nation and 12 times less than a local telex in America which will cost £1.28. International telexes are also cheaper from Britain than anywhere other than Canada. An international telex from Italy to New York will cost £4.04 while in Britain

it will cost only £1.70. Britain also fares well on trunk telephone calls over 200 miles. Italy is now the most expensive country from which to make a trunk call and costs 91p for a three-minute trunk call in Britain.

The survey was conducted by National Utility Services which monitors changes around the world. A spokesman for British Telecom said: "It is very difficult to make international comparisons for local calls as the areas differ in size. The London area is the largest area in the world in terms of the number of people able to call each other for the price of a local call. A fifth of all our customers are in London, so we are really giving very good value for money."

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Polished touch to Milan line

From LIZ SMITH, FASHION EDITOR, IN MILAN

THE tough commercial edge that Italian designers succeed in giving to even the wildest of design ideas is always an impressive phenomenon at the Milan shows. The skirts can be micro short and the cut flamboyant but the "made in Italy" labels inside assure a polished product that consistently sells worldwide.

At the Genny show yesterday colourful abstract plaids and dogtooth checks on every scale from small to retortwell size were the theme. In tweed and Jersey in every colour from straight black and white to vivid pink with red they add sharpness to the label's simple style.

There was no particular new line in the swing coats and belted trench coats worn over suits, but colours looked new. Chestnut brown leather and caramel silk coats are lined with fiery orange. Acid green faced in red and green cheeks match the tweed of the suit underneath. The cut is curvy and the evening dresses are sensuous columns of black crepe that might be expected from a collection of which Gianni Versace is design consultant.

Legal move to end school dispute

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE governors of a church school in south Wales are taking legal advice to help to resolve a dispute which has set them in serious conflict with the teachers and headmaster.

The governors overturned the headmaster's decision to expel or "exclude" three boys who allegedly assaulted a girl pupil and instead suspended them for four weeks. Teachers at the 1,100-pupil Bishop of Llandaff high school in Cardiff are now refusing to teach the boys.

The president of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Wales Teachers yesterday addressed his members at the school and backed them in their stand. Dan Roberts, the National Union of Teachers regional secretary for Wales, said a ballot among his members at the school had resulted in a unanimous vote not to teach or supervise the boys.

The boys, all in their mid-teens, returned to school last week after the half-term break. They are being kept in isolation and being given personal tuition in the headmaster's study.

Teachers belonging to two of the school's four unions held a strike last Friday, disrupting lessons for nearly

half the pupils. Local police have investigated the alleged assault and papers were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, which recommended no further action.

The alleged assault took place in January. The girl took an extended holiday after the half-term break and returned on Monday. The teachers are demanding that the boys should not be allowed to return to classes, some of which they share with the girl. They are also calling for the decision of the headmaster, Dr Leonard Parfitt, to be upheld.

The Dean of Llandaff, the Very Rev Alan Davies, chairman of the governors, said that after the headmaster's decision to exclude the boys, a sub-committee of the governors had looked carefully at the evidence and had heard from the boys' parents. "In the light of the information put before them, they decided that the permanent exclusion should become an exclusion for four weeks," he said.

During the three weeks since the assault, the school has received 1,000 letters from parents. The school's four unions held a strike last Friday, disrupting lessons for nearly half the pupils. Local police have investigated the alleged assault and papers were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service, which recommended no further action.

Husband ready with £250,000 ransom - then milkman raises alarm after hearing cry from flat

Kidnap wife freed after five-day captivity in chains

By PETER VICTOR

MARGARET Smith, wife of a millionaire businessman, who was kidnapped and held in chains for nearly five days, was reunited with her family yesterday. Mrs Smith, aged 49, was taken from her home at Markyate, Hertfordshire, last Thursday.

She was found yesterday morning when a milkman heard her shouting from a third-floor flat above a shop in Hemel Hempstead high street. A man was arrested shortly afterwards by armed police officers ending a five-day news blackout.

Mrs Smith was back with her husband Roger, aged 51, chairman of the motor dealer group Trimco and deputy chairman of Luton Town football club. Mr Smith, who discovered his wife had been

kidnapped from their home last Thursday, had obeyed the kidnapper's instructions to get £250,000 in cash. But the ransom was not paid.

Mrs Smith said after her release that she had had absolute faith in her husband and had known that he would be doing everything he could to secure her release. "I had every confidence in him and the family and our friends. We're surrounded by love always and I know that whatever happened they would get me out safe and sound."

"I want to say my thanks to the police but mostly I have to thank the milkman who heard me. When I screamed this morning he said: 'Where are you?' I said 'I'm here'. He went to the police and here I am safe."

Mrs Smith said she had prayed every day. She said it was hard to recollect her thoughts while she was being held. "At the time I suppose I thought, will this ever end? What have I done to deserve it? But, somehow, I must be a pretty strong character. I'm out of it safe and sound." She looked remarkably well.

Her son Ian thanked the police who had stayed at the family home during the kidnapping. Roger Smith added his thanks: "It's obviously a brilliant day for us to have Maggie back. What pleases me particularly is that it is not only a brilliant success for us as a family it's also a brilliant test-book success for the police. The whole thing has worked fantastically."

"Thank you to the press also for playing the game by the rules and paying attention to the embargo. Thank you for that and it's a brilliant day but an end to a harrowing period but the right outcome."

Assistant Chief Constable David Canadale said the police had been prepared to allow Mr Smith to pay the ransom as the first priority had been to ensure that Mrs Smith was safe. "She was our first priority, second was subsequently catching the kidnapper and then attempting to recover the ransom." Detectives are now trying to find out whether anyone else was involved in the kidnapping.

Yesterday evening the milkman who freed Mrs Smith recalled his part in the drama. Bert Boyce said: "I am no hero. I don't feel heroic. A hero is someone who saves someone's life. I did what anyone would have done."

"We heard this woman calling out: 'Help me, help me.' I wondered where it was coming from. I looked up and a light went on in the flat. I thought it was a bit strange. Mr Boyce shouted out to ask where she was and Mrs Smith replied: 'Up here'."

Mr Boyce said he was surprised no one heard Mrs Smith's cries earlier. He did not hear anything while delivering on previous days.



Bert Boyce, the milkman who raised the alarm that freed Mrs Smith, and the flat where she was held

Successful accord by police and the media

By PETER VICTOR AND ROBIN YOUNG

THE kidnap of Margaret Smith was the tenth case in which there was an agreement between police and media to suppress news of an abduction until the victim had been recovered. To date the tactic has always proved successful in achieving a safe release.

The police efforts to free Mrs Smith and catch her kidnapper were code-named Operation Kiwi, and involved more than 200 policemen, 100 of them from the No. 5 Regional Crime Squad, uniformed, plain clothes and firearms officers.

David Canadale, Hertfordshire's assistant chief constable, and other senior officers gave the media details of police operations in two-day briefings on the understanding that they would not make any enquiries of their own into the case, take photo-



The Smiths' home in Markyate from where the businessman's wife was kidnapped

graphs around Mrs Smith's house or home village, or give any publicity to the case until Mrs Smith was found. Mr Canadale yesterday expressed gratitude for the co-operation his force had received.

News blackouts have been agreed periodically for generations, the best known early example being the understanding Fleet Street reached with Buckingham Palace during the mid-1930s over Edward VIII's affair with Wallis Simpson. Since 1988 there has been a formal accord between police and the media in kidnap cases where life is endangered.

Under the agreement only

chief constables, their deputies or the head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch can make requests for blackouts, which are considered by editors on their individual merits. Once a blackout is agreed, police hold briefings for journalists every 12 hours. If the operation succeeds, they are obliged under the agreement to make every effort to produce the victim afterwards at a press conference.

Operation Kiwi was the first news blackout arranged by Hertfordshire constabulary. The Metropolitan Police has requested news blackouts on seven occasions. Mr Canadale said there had been a hiccup

on the first day of the kidnapping last week when a reporter telephoned friends of Mr Smith in breach of the blackout.

The following day a white van drove past the Smiths' home three times. "I haven't been able to establish whether that van belonged to the kidnapper or whether it was a member of the press," Mr Canadale said.

In cases such as that of the Surrey businessman Victor Cracknell, kidnapped in 1988, police were able to tap telephone conversations between his relatives and kidnappers who did not suspect that the police had been called in.

Forensic evidence flawed, QC for Six says

By STEWART TENDLER AND FRANCES GIBB

SUBSTANCES on the hands of smokers and a chemical used for food processing produce the same readings as nitro-glycerine on sensitive machinery used to give key forensic evidence against the Birmingham Six, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

The evidence taken in 1974 from a process called gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GCMS) was crucial to the rejection of the men's last appeal in 1988. Yesterday, Michael Mansfield, QC, for the men, told the new appeal that the GCMS material was now considered unsafe. Taken with doubts on other forensic evidence, Mr Mansfield said there was now no evidence left to support the contention that any of the men had ever handled explosives as claimed at their trial.

Mr Mansfield, representing five of the six, was continuing his opening address on the second day of the men's third appeal. The six - Gerry Hunter, Richard McIlkenny, Hugh Callaghan, Billy Power, Paddy Hill, and Johnny Walker - were convicted in 1975 of the murder of 21 people in IRA bomb attacks on two Birmingham public houses.

Mr Mansfield said that work by Dr John Lloyd now showed the reading reported for nitro-glycerine on Hill's hand could also be achieved with many other compounds. Swabs taken by Dr Lloyd at random from people coming in to his laboratory would produce the same GCMS reading for nitro-glycerine given at the trial.

Turning to the Griess test carried out by Dr Frank Skuse, Mr Mansfield told the court that the scientists had reported some of his utensils were contaminated as he worked after five of the men were arrested. They gave positive results for nitro-glycerine although none was present when he carried out tests to make sure that they were clean. Now Dr Lloyd had discovered that nitrite found in soaps could give a positive reading.

The hearing continues today.

Bolt cutters used to sever shackles

THE chronology of Mrs Smith's kidnap was: Thursday, February 28: 11.45am: Mrs Smith seen by two cleaners at her home. 12.10pm: Telephone rings at the house, but no reply. 12.30pm: She misses appointment at hairdressers. 3.45pm: Mr Smith returns home to find a half-ironed shirt and wife's purse on floor. 5.50pm: Telephone rings. "Eleven o'clock," are the only words spoken, Mr Smith calls police.

Friday, March 1: 4.15pm: Two rings on telephone but no one speaks. Near: Another call. Mr Smith thinks caller is saying "£100,000 or £500,000". 4.35pm: Kidnapper calls again. No amount mentioned. Mr Smith asks: "How much?" There is no reply. Saturday: 6.15pm: Kidnapper calls asking if Mr Smith has money. He replies it will take until Monday or Tuesday. Sunday: No calls. Monday: 12.44pm: Kidnapper calls. Mr Smith says he can get the money. Told to do so.

Collects money from bank. 6.25pm: Garbled message from the kidnapper. 6.40pm: Kidnapper tells Mr Smith to go to Gaddenden Row, where he will find a tape with instructions. 7.5pm: Mr Smith and son Ian find a five-minute tape in a cardboard box. Tape contains instructions and message from Mrs Smith. 11.30pm: 2am: Police examine and discuss tape. Yesterday: 6.30am: 999 call to Hemel Hempstead police by milkman saying woman shouting from upstairs window that she has been chained for days. 6.40am: Police on scene; armed officers follow. 7.30am: Detective Chief Superintendent Anthony Swendell arrives. 8.10am: Mr Swendell borrows fire brigade bolt cutters to free Mrs Smith. 8.45am: Mrs Smith arrives at doctor's surgery. The family is reunited. 9.30am: Armed officers arrest man near where Mrs Smith was held.

Fall in visits to historic houses

By JOHN YOUNG

THE number of visitors to historic houses fell last year for the first time in 20 years, a survey published yesterday shows.

Some of the larger and better known properties attracted more people than before, as did houses and castles in Scotland. However, smaller houses in England and Wales mostly fared badly.

Terry Empson, director general of the Historic Houses Association, which published the survey, said that the fall

had not been catastrophic. The market had been fairly static for several years, he said. However, the prospects for this year, as a result of the recession in this country and the decline in overseas visitors, especially from America, were certainly pretty gloomy.

The association represents only private owners, and does not take into account properties owned and administered by the National Trust and English Heritage.

	1990	1989	% change
The most popular houses include:			
Warwick Castle	885,000	837,000	+7.54
Leeds Castle	540,483	529,529	+2.26
Elisenheim Palace	528,334	502,271	+5.19
Castle Howard	220,929	209,823	+5.29
Harewood House	181,414	189,235	-4.13
Blair Castle	170,554	168,008	+1.52
Arundel Castle	165,734	175,554	-5.52
Bowood House	122,882	155,713	-21.05
Durweston Castle	114,366	108,000	+7.88
Exbury Gardens	109,091	115,785	-5.78
Glamis Castle	108,730	92,575	+17.45
Cawdor Castle	108,068	89,134	+21.24
Scots Palace	106,626	101,571	+4.97

'Marvellous' life of Trethowan

By ALICE THOMSON

"MARVELLOUS" was an expression of Sir Ian Trethowan's that summed up his life, Lord Prior said, paying tribute at a memorial service yesterday for the leading broadcasting figure. "Life for him was marvellous and he enjoyed it to the full and communicated that joy to others."

In an address at St Martin in the Fields, Lord Prior commended the man who had been a prominent figure both on and off the screen as a presenter at ITN, director-general of the BBC and chairman of Thames Television.

Sir Ian's first coup had been becoming a political correspondent for *The Yorkshire Post*. "It was his talent as a political journalist which bought him to notice, followed by fame and success," Lord Prior said. "He was always looking for the story that no one else had got."

Referring to the critical obituary in *The Times* after Sir Ian's death last December, Lord Prior added: "He would

have enjoyed hugely the speculation about his own *Times* obituary - 'Who wrote it, I wonder why they said that?'"

Lord Rees-Mogg had fondly called Sir Ian "the archetypal Mr Nice". "That calm, enquiring and entertaining appearance certainly was supported with sinews of steel," Lord Prior said. When the political pack had howled for blood, as it had over Thames Television's *Death on the Rock* programme, it required a steady nerve to stand firm.

Sir Ian had appreciated the good things in life, sailing and racing and dining at the Connaught, but he had, Lord Prior said, put back much more into his interests than he took out and had been an excellent chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board. "When his horse, Buddy Holly, won at Plumpton the day before he died, a copy of *The Sporting Life* was placed on his bed. He simply said 'Marvellous'."

Memorial service, page 16

New Bentley steals show's thunder

From KEVIN EASON IN GENEVA

ROLLS-Royce yesterday shook its competitors in the luxury car market by unveiling its first new car for more than ten years at the Geneva Motor Show. The Bentley Continental R is a sweeping £160,000 coupé and is the first new Bentley design to have come from Rolls-Royce's factory at Crewe, Cheshire, since 1952.

The Geneva unveiling took the motoring world by surprise. Attention at the show was firmly focused on new luxury cars being launched by Mercedes, but the new Bentley emerged as the star.

In spite of the price, Peter Ward, Rolls-Royce's chief executive, said that he was confident buyers could be found. Only 280 cars would be made next year, with 70 each for Britain, America, Europe and the Far East.

Buyers will be asked for a £20,000 deposit, will be restricted to one car each and will have to undergo a vetting procedure designed to weed out speculators aiming to drive up the price. Rolls-Royce is acutely aware of the kind of speculation which led to the tripling of prices of other recently launched supercars. Mr Ward said: "We have designed this car to be driven. It is a sporting supercar

which will give immense pleasure to owners and it is not intended to sit in a garage gathering dust."

Rolls-Royce hopes that the Continental will also revive its fortunes as sales of luxury cars suffer from a worldwide recession. Fears in America over the outcome of the Gulf war and the imposition of a new 10 per cent luxury tax helped to halve Rolls-Royce sales in January to 25 cars. That

uncertainty over the future forced the company to shed 700 jobs from the 4,500 strong workforce at Crewe earlier this year. The company, however, is sensing a mood of optimism and hopes that an economic upswing will coincide with the new Bentley's introduction in November.

The Continental brings a more modern shape to the traditional qualities expected of a Bentley and its 6.7-litre, turbo-charged engine underlines its sporting heritage. Mazda last night confirmed that it wants to be the fourth big Japanese manufacturer to build cars in Europe and is searching for possible factory sites.

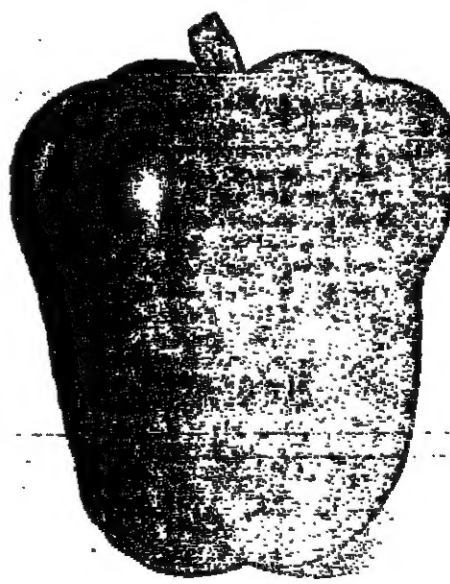
Keiji Asano, the company's senior managing director of overseas operations, said that Mazda planned to produce as many as 150,000 cars within the European community, possibly as early as the mid-1990s.



For the chosen few: the Bentley Continental R

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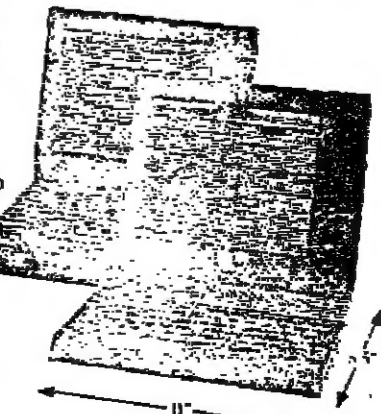
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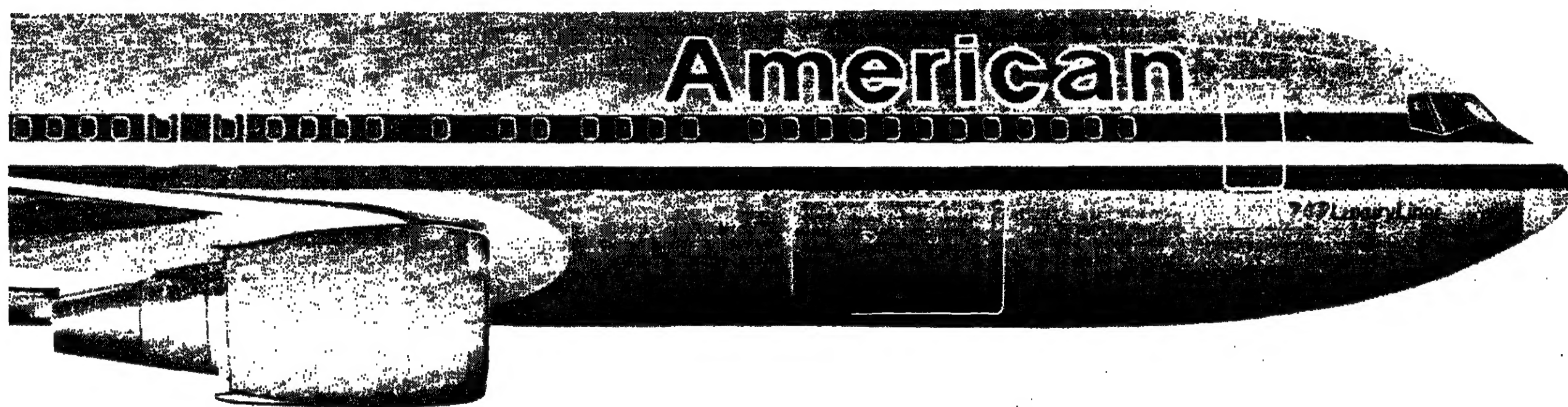
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Fight African famine on war footing, relief agencies say

By MICHAEL KNIFE
AND BILL FROST

WITH emergency food supplies to the starving in Africa running dry, an appeal for the international community to respond to the famine with the same vigour with which it responded to the Gulf emergency was made yesterday by famine relief officials in London.

Brendan Gormley, head of Oxfam's Africa programme, said that with more than 20 million facing starvation and early warning of the approaching disaster, it was a pity that politicians seemed to have to wait for pictures to appear of babies dying of hunger before they would find the political will to

mobilise aid. He blamed the distractions of the war in the Gulf for the fact that public response to an emergency appeal in January for funds to feed the starving in Africa raised only £5 million, half the amount raised for a similar appeal the previous year.

At least six African countries are badly affected by food shortages: Sudan, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Malawi, Angola and Liberia. The extent of the shortfall of emergency relief aid was illustrated by the fact that with six million Ethiopians affected by drought, only one third of that amount had so far been pledged by donor nations and of that only 20,000 tonnes has been

delivered. Mr Gormley said that the British government had responded relatively well to the emergency and was "open to discussion and persuasion". The European Community and America, however, were less responsive. During the last Ethiopian famine in 1984-5, the Americans had provided half the emergency relief but had received little thanks for it and opinion had now swung against such generous support.

With the Western food donors failing to deliver sufficient supplies to Ethiopia, Oxfam has chartered a ship, due to sail from Ipswich at the weekend, with 4,000 tonnes of grain for Ethiopia and Sudan. "Although our resources are

scarce, we hope that by chartering this ship we will be able to galvanise major donors into pledging more and sending more," Mr Gormley said. "It shows that the British public is putting its hand in its pocket and we hope it will send a signal to the politicians to do more as well." The shipment will provide basic cereal rations for a quarter of a million people for one month. To fund the shipment the Overseas Development Administration, Comic Relief, Help the Aged and Band Aid have each provided more than £200,000.

John Magrath, an Oxfam official who has just returned from Ethiopia, said that there had recently been a huge new

influx into the Ogaden region of refugees fleeing the civil war in Somalia. An estimated 200,000 had arrived to join 370,000 existing refugees. In addition, there were half a million people living in the Ogaden who were affected by drought. Marcus Thompson, Oxfam's emergency director, said: "A large scale emergency relief programme for the Ogaden must be mounted immediately."

Save the Children said yesterday that saturation media coverage of the Gulf conflict reduced the level of donations to Third World causes by keeping reports about critical food shortages in African countries out of television news bulletins and the press. A Disasters

Emergency Fund Appeal, aimed at easing the worst effects of the famine, closed last month after raising £6 million. Giselle Dye, of Save the Children, expressed gratitude to those who contributed, but said the level of giving was dented by the Gulf war.

Martin Horwood, of Oxfam, thought that some money which normally would have been donated towards famine relief had gone to the Gulf Trust, established by the government in January. In Sudan, international relief workers said their efforts had been hampered by a government decision to ground United Nations flights into the southern region. Relief workers say that a million people could die this year.

Parents deny ritual sex claims as care order is extended

By KERRY GILL

NINE children at the centre of ritual sexual abuse claims involving parents were yesterday ordered to be kept in care for a further 21 days after a children's hearing was given details of the allegations.

The four Orkney families were finally told of the allegations at the hearings in Kirkwall. Each family was dealt with in turn at the children's panel offices in a side street in Kirkwall, the biggest town in Orkney. About 50 people gathered outside in the rain to picket the proceedings. They held banners saying "Children punished not protected" and "Children back to Orkney now". Inside, all the families denied the allegations. Many broke down and demanded the return of their children.

One mother, emerging from the hearing, said it was like a Salem witch hunt. "It is just ridiculous. The social worker

that made the allegations I have never met before. She was simpering and saying it was in the child's best interests. It is just not possible. The social worker people are round the twist."

The parents have not been allowed to see or speak to their children since they were seized from their beds in a dawn raid last Wednesday. Asked if the mother had any message for her sons aged 11 and 13, she replied: "Stick in there, kids, we are all coming."

A local Church of Scotland minister, the Rev Morris McKenzie, aged 64, was also questioned by police and St Andrews university robes taken after his manse and church were searched for five hours.

During the hearings the panel of two women and a man decided that the children had been exposed to "moral danger" by the alleged acts said to have taken place up to November, 1990, when eight other children were taken into care on the island.

Lesley Scarth, the panel chairman, read out the grounds for extending the care order and said it was essential that the matter should be cleared up. She said the panel could not be 100 per cent sure because no further reports were available yet.

The first mother to appear told the hearing: "I find the allegations absolutely repugnant. I certainly do not accept the grounds for referral." Her husband agreed. Later she said: "It is appalling that an agency like the social work department can have total control over our lives in Britain. We are not going to

give up. It could be any child in Britain."

A social worker told the hearing that the department was carrying out a joint enquiry with the police. She said: "We have no interest in keeping these children in care longer than is necessary. It is simply a question of getting to the truth."

Mrs Scarth said: "It is not the business of the hearing system to keep any children for one day, one hour longer than is absolutely essential."

The Rev Derek Edwards, a Baptist minister, asked if he could take some of the children into his care so as to keep them on Orkney. His plea was refused.

Last night Alistair Bruce, lawyer for two of the families, confirmed that all four families would make an appeal to the sheriff court today. The families would ask for the care order to be rescinded and, if so, the sheriff would have power to have all nine children released immediately. The social work department would have the right to make an appeal to the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court. The hearing today will be in private.

He added that the parents had been left bewildered, confused and isolated. "This is in absolute disregard of the guidelines drawn up after the Cleveland inquiry," he said.

The Orkney Presbytery, the Church of Scotland governing body on the islands, said that the methods used to investigate the allegations had been unacceptable and the church reaffirmed the sanctity of the family and the rights of parents and children in the home.



Big fish: John MacKay with a one-year-old halibut

Halibut reared in tanks are year old

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HALIBUT lovers may soon be able to look forward to cheaper and more plentiful supplies of one of the most highly prized fish, according to researchers who have successfully reared the species in captivity.

Forty-seven fish grown in tanks at the Sea Fish Industry Authority's marine farming unit at Ardtoole on the west coast of Scotland are the first cultivated halibut in Britain to reach one year of age. "Our researchers are contributing to the establishment of an important commercial activity as well as the improvement of consumer choice," John MacKay, the authority's chairman, said.

Wild halibut can reach 750lb and 10ft and are believed to live for 30 years. Their normal home is the north Atlantic where the temperature range is 5-12°C and they spawn at depths of more than 3,000ft. Because of overfishing, they are plentiful only in arctic waters.

"We catch the broodstock in the wild," John Dye, a research officer, said. "This is a traumatic experience for the fish and we have to hold them for at least a year before they will breed." The eggs are stripped from the female and fertilised with sperm from males in polythene tubs. The eggs are checked for quality

and put in an incubator, hatching into larvae in 14-15 days. The larvae take another 30-35 days to grow to a size where they are capable of feeding.

There are still many technical problems to be overcome and commercial production of halibut may be five years or more away. The potential is considerable: halibut was fetching up to £5.5 a lb at Billingsgate yesterday, compared with a maximum of £1.80 a lb for farmed salmon. Traders say that the ideal size for sale to hotels and restaurants is 10-20lb. Halibut's high price keeps it off most domestic dinner tables.

Prime suspects are Spark, Myth, Fable, Diamond, Kelpie, Phoenix and Pharo, members of the feared royal corgi gang, who have often

Jail job centre brings new hope

An in-house job centre is giving hope to prisoners nearing release, Quentin Cowdry reports

TWO weeks ago Joe, who is nearing the end of a year's jail sentence for assault, seemed destined again for the dole. An 18-year-old criminal record hardly aids a person's job prospects, especially during a recession.

However, as he spoke yesterday of his new hopes of becoming a hairdresser, there seemed just a chance that this tough south Londoner might at last break the cycle of unemployment and criminality that has dogged him.

If Joe does end up behind a barber's chair, much of the thanks will be due to a pioneering initiative by the Apex Trust which has set up a job centre in Pentonville prison, north London. The trust, a charity which promotes employment opportunities for offenders, offers advice to prisoners but had not been allowed a permanent presence inside a jail.

Joe, whose surname has been omitted to prevent possible discrimination by prospective employers, is especially grateful for the training he has received in handling job interviews. "Often I've ended up losing my rag with interviews which is not the best way of getting on," said Joe, whose criminal record began with a conviction for selling ice creams unlawfully at the age of ten. He is also convinced that joblessness plays a big part in breeding crime. "It certainly has in my case, anyway."

The centre was formally opened yesterday by Robert Jackson, junior employment minister. Few at the ceremony sought to minimise the formidable difficulties prisoners face in finding jobs after being released. Ninety per cent of the 60,000 freed each year have no job to go to and many are still jobless after a year.

Mr Jackson said that on-site jail job clubs would help to counter the pessimism prisoners felt at knowing that the odds of finding work were bad. "There is little doubt that employers are deterred from considering ex-offenders as employees, both by the perceived risk involved and by the negative image of this



Training time: Dean Welling, left, who found a hairdressing job through the centre

particular client group." The centre, which will cost £50,000 a year to run, is being financed by public and private sector money, including a grant from the government-supported London City Action Team. The centre's three permanent staff help inmates to prepare curriculum vitae, give advice

on interview techniques and information on training courses and jobs. Eight prisoners have so far had their names chalked up on the centre's "roll of honour", one for landing a job as a cabinet maker and another for being recruited as a gardener. Baroness Sear, chairman of the

trust, said that the project was a real breakthrough in the prison department's approach to pre-release work with inmates and a step towards meeting the demands made by Lord Justice Woolf in his analysis of the causes of prison unrest. "We hope that other prisons will follow suit."

House price rises predicted this year

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE prices remained almost static between January and February, indicating that the market has finally bottomed out, the Nationwide Anglia Building Society reported yesterday.

The society's latest price survey found that at the end of last month the average house price was £57,661, only £9 less than in January. Nationwide's figures are slightly more optimistic for sellers than those from the Halifax Building Society yesterday.

Halifax said that prices fell by 0.4 per cent between January and February, the fifth consecutive monthly fall. That meant the annual rate of house price inflation was minus 0.5 per cent by the end of last month.

Both societies, however, believe that prices could show a 5 per cent increase by the

end of the year. The Halifax said that the recent fall in interest rates should help the very weak market, but further cuts would be needed to restore buoyancy. The Wool-

wich building society was even more bullish. Announcing the society's results yesterday, Donald Kirkham, group chief executive, said that across the country prices

would rise by an average of 6 per cent this year, although in the South the increase would be only 3-5 per cent because of the number of properties waiting to be sold. He predicted that the housing market would return to pre-1988 levels by next year.

HOUSE PRICES (1988-1990)

	1988 Q4	1989 Q4	1990 Q4
Aberdeen	48,103	54,290	66,887
Bradford	38,184	39,050	47,984
Cheshire	54,029	63,620	73,336
Coventry	60,382	71,070	48,091
Derby	50,772	59,780	52,808
Glasgow	47,514	55,950	63,205
Hull	31,507	36,860	44,219
Leeds	33,999	40,030	59,807
Nottingham	50,565	59,540	57,512
Orkney	31,670	37,530	50,738
Oxford	106,890	125,860	95,081
Reading	92,915	109,410	100,725
Rochele	34,317	40,410	55,456
Sevenoaks	187,053	196,700	144,045
Stoke	36,143	42,650	47,779
Tunbridge Wells	95,664	112,890	103,496
York	84,796	76,300	68,491

1989 = 100

The accompanying table, with figures provided by the Halifax, shows the change in average prices in cities and towns since the end of the property boom in 1988. The second column gives the prices at the end of 1988 updated by the RPI change to December 1990 (an increase of about 17.75 per cent), indicating the towns worst affected by the slump. Q4 signifies the fourth quarter. Towns in the South have clearly suffered badly, but they are likely to be the first to recover.

Pensioner held in gun siege

A gunman held a shotgun to the mouth of an elderly man in a siege at a block of flats in Coventry yesterday.

Armed police surrounded the block at Bruce Road, Radford, at about 3am following a call from the 67-year-old man after he had been threatened and beaten by a gunman who had burst in to his flat and had later fled to a nearby flat. Superintendent Bill Guest, wearing a bullet-proof vest and carrying a protective shield, went into the victim's flat to pull him clear. The pensioner was yesterday afternoon in hospital recovering from head injuries. Two armed officers eventually approached the flat containing the gunman and persuaded him to surrender.

A man was later being questioned by police.

Father jailed

Michael Olley, who broke his 11-month-old daughter's skull, was jailed for six months yesterday. Olley, angry that the baby's mother would not spend the night with him, repeatedly threw the baby in the air, Southwark crown court was told. Then, Olley, with the baby on his shoulders, hit the woman and the baby fell, fracturing her skull. Olley, aged 24, of Stepney, east London, admitted child cruelty and assault.

Stolen twice

A meat firm is considering suing Northumbria police after a lorry holding £20,000 of meat on which a constable was keeping watch after the stolen vehicle had been found apparently dumped at Whickham, Tyne and Wear, was stolen again when the officer was sent to a burglary.

Cheaper rides

Fares on Eastern Counties buses are to fall by between 3p and 5p in the pound. The company said: "We had to put up fares last October when the price of fuel went up because of the Gulf crisis. Now the war is over, fuel prices are going down. We are passing this on to our travellers."

Romance back

Twin-sized back row seats, popular with courting couples in the Fifties, have made a comeback at a Bath cinema. The "lovers' doubles" have been installed at the Gemini cinema as part of a £125,000 refurbishment.

Police rescue

Police pursuing a man near Aveton Gifford, Devon, had to rescue him when he drove down a flooded tidal road. Police swam across the creek crossing as the man's car sank.

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Male virility problems solved

AN important breakthrough in the treatment of male impotence has led to unprecedented success in recent clinically controlled trials.

Results of the new treatment on 4,000 men has proved that the majority of sufferers can now be successfully treated. A spokesman for The London Diagnostic Centre, a leading independent clinic specialising in the field of male sexual problems, said yesterday:

"Male impotence affects far more men than is realised and many of the cases previously diagnosed as untreatable have been helped to resume a normal sex life. Many men are already using this thoroughly tested and safe treatment in the privacy of their own home."

The fully qualified professional staff at the London Diagnostic Centre offer expert help and sympathetic counselling on full and partial impotence, premature ejaculation and most other psychogenic or organic disorders.

If you would like to know more and discover how you can lead a happy and more fulfilling sex life please post the coupon on page 18 today.

Windsor Seven top suspects in a royal biting

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen needed three stitches after being bitten on the left hand when she tried to break up an outbreak of gang warfare, it has been confirmed officially by Buckingham Palace. The assailant's identity is not being disclosed, but it is thought to be one of the notorious Seven Dwarfs of Windsor.

Prime suspects are Spark, Myth, Fable, Diamond, Kelpie, Phoenix and Pharo, members of the feared royal corgi gang, who have often

struck terror into the hearts and ankles of visitors to the palace. Fighting broke out during a meeting at Windsor on Sunday with two rival Welsh maffiosi from the Queen Mother mob who ran the Clarence House racket.

Also involved in the fracas were the Dreadful Dorgis, a pair of corgi-dachshund crossbreeds named Piper and Harris, who carve up the royal concession with the Windsor Seven. Experts believe that they are unlikely to have carried out the attack, as their reputation for violence does not

match that of the purchased mob from Pembrokehire.

It is still not clear what provoked the Welsh corgi battle. Witnesses do not know whether it was an eruption of inter-gang rivalry or an internal power struggle to become Godfather of the Windsor Seven.

When the Queen tried to intervene, she was bitten on the left knuckle. John Collins, the Queen Mother's chauffeur, who rushed to assist, was also bitten and had to be taken to hospital for a tetanus injection. Both have now recovered,

and the Queen conducted an investiture yesterday with her hand bandaged.

Violence erupted two years ago when the Clarence House mob led by their godfather, Ranger, attacked and killed Chipper, a former member of the Windsor Seven. Dr Roger Mugford, an animal behaviourist called in by the Queen after the 1989 killing, said yesterday that Sunday's biting of the hand that feeds them every day at 5pm sharp was probably an accident and may have been caused by a fight over a piece of food.

Welfare and schools to be at heart of Tory manifesto

COMMITMENTS to extend and improve the welfare and public services, privatising remaining state industries and to encourage schools to opt out of local council control are emerging as the key elements of the Conservative election manifesto.

The manifesto group reports being delivered to Conservative Central Office are expected to offer John Major the basis of a programme that, while appealing to the radical Thatcherite right, will allow him to move the party on to his chosen ground of appealing to the floating voter. Mr Major has outlined the party's challenge as remaining radical while being compassionate to those who needed special assistance.

The manifesto is likely to provide a strong commitment to the market economy and sound money, offer greater incentives for saving and emphasise the need to preserve and improve the efficiency of the public

services, particularly in the health and education field.

Increased power for parents, far-reaching reform of teacher training and more emphasis on technical and vocational training will be key elements in plans for a fourth Conservative administration. Along with raising the status of vocational qualifications and teachers, the party will spearhead moves to encourage schools to opt out of local authority control and become grant maintained or locally managed. Under that proposal schools would get almost all the education budget, leaving the local authorities with powers to license schools and provide advisory and special needs services.

With the national curriculum now being implemented, the Tories are highlighting teaching standards, in particular the need for changes in teacher training. Ministers want trainee teachers to spend more time on practical work in the classroom and less

The Tories' manifesto plans, Richard Ford writes, will be likely to meet John Major's desire that the party should be able to present itself to the electorate as radical and compassionate

time on theoretical training in colleges. Mr Major is being urged to raise the status of BTec vocational qualifications, but less emphasis is being put on encouraging "magnet" schools and city technology colleges.

Transport is another key area for the party, with Tory voters in southern England suffering from overcrowding, road congestion and problems on the railways. A fresh commitment to privatisation of British Rail is likely to be the highlight of the party's plans for transport in the Nineties. An idea likely to be attractive to commuters is a plan to reimburse people whose trains are late through staff inefficiency. The right

is pressing for the party to give a commitment to deregulate London buses, bringing them into line with other bus services in the rest of the country.

Mr Major's interest in seeing increased home ownership will be a key element of the party's appeal. The party is almost certain to promise an extension of the "rent-to-mortgages" scheme to include part sales of council flats and houses. The prime minister is also keen for local authorities to contract out some white-collar services including housing management, computing, legal services, planning and conveyancing. There is still no agreement on the

future of the poll tax, however. As part of his plans for the future, Michael Heseltine favours abolishing county councils.

The Tory trade and industry working party is expected to propose the privatisation of the Post Office, though that may initially be confined to parcels and counter services. A proposal to break the monopoly of the Royal Mail may in Mr Major's judgment be too sensitive to appear in the manifesto. Further, every study of privatising the Royal Mail has been unable to resolve the difficulties of providing a service in rural areas that often are Conservative electoral heartlands.

The manifesto group has also been looking at ways of making competition policy more effective.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, will have the job of persuading the voters that the health service is safe in Conservative hands. Although the right would like the manifesto to extend

tax relief to all people taking out private health insurance, Mr Major is likely to emphasise that there are no plans to privatise health care. Mr Waldegrave has made clear that there will be no extension of tax incentives for private health care.

The manifesto is also likely to emphasise the trend towards hospital trusts and GPs' budgets that ministers see as the way to devolve power from the centre, improve efficiency, bring greater flexibility and individual choice. Mr Waldegrave is keen that the party should make disease prevention and health promotion a key plank in the party's plans. After the Budget he will publish a green paper setting out national targets for reducing serious illnesses such as heart disease, cancer and strokes. The manifesto is expected to insist also that child benefit will be preserved, although it is expected to insist on the importance of improving targeting.

Sunday trading rejected

The latest attempt to change the law on Sunday trading was rejected decisively by MPs. John Marshall, Conservative MP for Hendon South, was refused leave to introduce his Shops Bill by 144 votes to 75. It would have provided for licensed Sunday trading, expansion of shopping hours on the six Sundays before Christmas and protection of shop workers.

Opposing it, Ray Powell (Ogmore, Lab) said that no employee could be protected adequately once the floodgates of Sunday trading were opened.

Health costs

About £511 a head of population is being spent this financial year on the health service, Stephen Dorrell, health under-secretary, said in a written reply. The equivalent figure in 1978-9 was £365 at today's prices, a real-terms increase of 40 per cent.

Drugs bill

The drugs bill in the family health services this financial year is expected to be about £2,116 million, Virginia Bottomley, health minister, said in a written reply.

NHS trusts

Fifty-seven health service trusts will be operational from April 1, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said in a written reply. Nine further candidates are continuing to work towards trust status, he added.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scotland, Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) bill, remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debates on transport in the Southeast, on refugees and on the Gulf.

Pledge to lone mothers

TONY Newton, the social security secretary, has dismissed fears that lone mothers will be vulnerable to attack if they are forced to disclose the name of their children's father (Sheila Gunn writes).

He assured the Commons social security committee yesterday that the proposed child support agency for tracking down absent parents for maintenance payments will not disclose women's addresses if there is a danger of

violence. He is considering how to achieve a proper balance between pursuing absent fathers and protecting lone mothers who may be at risk of attack. "Clearly", he said, "we would want to have arrangements that take account of well founded fears of harm in whatever form, but I would be reluctant to get into a position where anybody can get around their liability by simply making random threats."

Training is key to beating fraud

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

REPORTED cases of government computer fraud are highest within the employment department, a report published yesterday by the independent National Audit Office has found.

In the period 1985-90, nearly three-quarters (72 per cent) of reported cases of fraud against government computer systems were from employment department offices.

Offences ranged from a worker inputting false claims through a computer terminal that had been switched on and left unattended to authorised staff altering computer records so that giro cheques were directed to an incorrect address.

The biggest case of reported computer fraud was against defence ministry computers. Unlawful use of a stores computer allowed an employee to acquire and sell equipment worth £17,427

between 1986 and 1987. That was followed by a fraud at the National Savings department where a member of staff used computers to identify rarely active savings accounts from which £13,000 was obtained by illegal repayment methods.

Incidents of computer fraud also happened during the five-year period at the Inland Revenue and the transport and health departments.

The findings come nearly three years after an audit office report, *Computer Security in Government Departments*, that highlighted concerns over the security of government computer systems and the data they hold from fraud, floods and fires.

John Bourn, head of the office, said the

new study showed that government departments had made "significant progress" in information technology security since the last study but that further improvements were needed.

One key area highlighted was the need for better training of staff. The study found that awareness of security was generally poor among non-technical staff and that only a third of all departments had a formal awareness scheme. Some departments took the attitude that since they had not suffered a security breach the risks were minimal.

The findings will be debated by the House of Commons public accounts committee after Easter.

National Audit Office: *The Management of Information Technology Security in Government Departments* (Stationery Office, £4.95).

Heseltine's property tax scheme wins support

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A STRONG signal that the solution eventually emerging from the government's poll tax review will meet the principle that everyone should contribute to the cost of local government services was delivered by a senior cabinet minister yesterday.

With the cabinet poll tax committee preparing to meet tomorrow for its latest attempt to break the deadlock, there were renewed signs of optimism among supporters of Michael Heseltine that his plan for a property tax adjusted according to the number of people living in a home would carry the day.

The community charge and its impact in tomorrow's Ribbles Valley by-election dominated exchanges in prime minister's question time in the Commons when John MacGregor, the Commons leader, stood in for John Major, who was in Moscow.

Mr MacGregor, a member of the poll tax committee, confirmed that all options were still being looked at. He said, however, that one of the most important features of the community charge was that everyone is making some contribution.

Sources close to the review said yesterday that Mr Heseltine was making some progress in winning over colleagues to his plan, referred to as "the hybrid". But the key to its success, or to alternative proposals for keeping a modified version of the community charge, will be a reduction in the spending borne by local government, the sources said.

Without that Mr Heseltine's plan could founder because of opposition over the number of losers it would create. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has run into fierce opposition within his department to the plans he is enthusiastically pressing for, with Mr Heseltine, the environment secretary, for a rapid expansion of grant-maintained schools. That

holds the key to the success of Mr Heseltine's proposals and his supporters are voicing hopes that the prime minister will support the move and overcome Treasury opposition to giving up the substantial new funds required.

Mr MacGregor's remarks about everyone contributing to local services are similar to those made by the prime minister before the review began. Mr Heseltine's proposals were drawn up precisely with that aim in mind.

Mr Heseltine's proposed tax would be banded according to the type of house or flat and adjusted by relatively modest "personal premiums" to take account of the number of people living there. That would meet the principle that everyone pays. However, there remains strong Conservative backbench opposition to a property tax.

Last plea made for steel plant

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Steel will be urged next week not to wreck the last chance of saving the Scottish steel industry by dismantling the plant at Ravenscraig's hot strip mill in Motherwell.

In a report highly critical of British Steel management's handling of the closures in Scotland, the Commons trade and industry committee is to ask the company to leave the plant intact in case a buyer can be found. If the company refuses, the committee wants the European Commission to

investigate whether the company may be deterring a prospective competitor.

The committee held an enquiry after British Steel announced the loss of 770 jobs at Ravenscraig. Last month the company disclosed plans to lose a further 1,100 of the remaining 2,300 jobs at Ravenscraig by July.

The committee has limited powers for questioning commercial decisions taken by a privatised company, but the report is expected to deplore British Steel's handling of negotiations with workers and the Scottish Office over the future of Ravenscraig. It also wants the company to take a more positive stance to the option of turning Ravenscraig into a supplier of raw slabs for export.

The report to be published on March 14 will single out the chairman, Sir Robert Scholey, for criticism in the wake of a heated session with the committee after he had made clear that he objected to appearing before the cross-party group. He admitted that he had not visited the hot strip mill for five years and was reluctant to disclose to the MPs his long-term plans.



Scholey: will be singled out for criticism



MacGregor: community charge principle is that everyone pays something for services

Hoaxers face stiff penalty

THE government came under pressure in both houses of Parliament yesterday to bring in tougher sentences for bomb hoaxers.

Lady Phillips, a JP and Labour peer, protested in the Lords that those found guilty were given only three months in jail. She added: "Many of us, if we were sitting on the bench, would make sure they got 30 years".

Lord Harris of Greenwich, the Liberal Democrat, also made clear his irritation at the penalties. He said that a three-month sentence meant in reality only six weeks' jail.

In the Commons, Sir John Sticks, Tory MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge, was cheered at prime minister's question time when he questioned whether three months was sufficient for such a dangerous offence.

John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, replying on behalf of John Major, who is in Moscow, said that the government and British Telecom are examining the issue.

Earl Ferrers, the Home Office minister of state, told peers that in the 24 hours after the IRA bombs at Paddington and Victoria stations last month, 79 hoax calls were made. He described them as an appalling frustration and a most wicked waste of time.

Ministers look to ways of recasting RPI

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

TREASURY

THE expected sharp fall in inflation to about 4 per cent by the end of the year has revived hopes in Downing Street of recasting the way in which inflation is measured.

The prime minister has been arguing that the present basis for compiling the retail price index including mortgage costs and poll tax changes damages Britain. He believes that it gives other countries the idea that inflation is worse than it is. John Major says that the present system penalises Britain externally "because it implies that our inflation rate proportionately is higher than it really is to our competitors".

He believes that the question of a change should be examined. But both Mr Major and Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, have been reluctant to invite the retail price index advisory committee, which will decide the question, to contemplate changes in the composition of the index, covering housing costs in a different way, because pensions and some social security benefits are linked to the present price index.

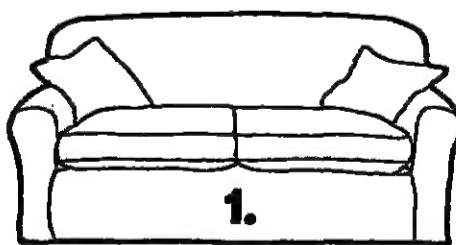
They would be able to change the system, they believe, only at the point when

the general inflation rate and the underlying rate that they wish to see reflected in official figures instead, have come together. That would ensure that there was no penalty involved in the change for those whose benefit levels are related to the present index, avoiding accusations of "cheating" from political opponents. It is believed that such a point could be reached later this year.

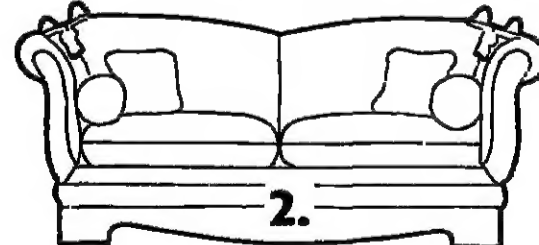


Lamont: has not wanted to move too soon

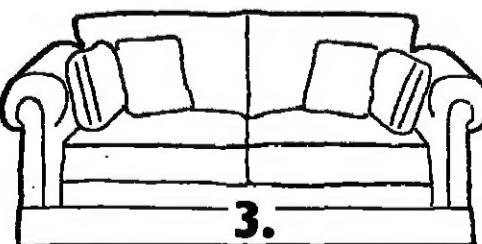
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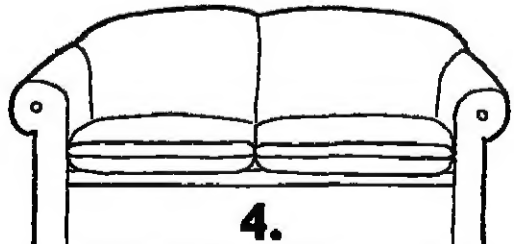
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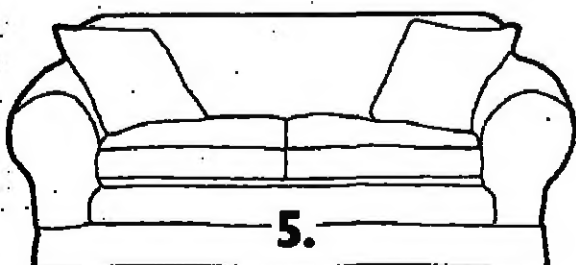
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ARAB SECURITY

Cairo proposes Egyptian-Syrian peace force core

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN DAMASCUS

ESMAT Abdel-Meguid, the Egyptian foreign minister, proposed in the Syrian capital yesterday that Egyptian and Syrian troops form the core of an Arab peace force in the Gulf, enabling the pullout of American and other Western forces from the region.

Egyptian and Syrian forces at present in the Gulf could form the core of a force to preserve peace in the region after the withdrawal of non-Arab troops, he said at a meeting of foreign ministers from Egypt, Syria and the Gulf Co-operation Council, whose members are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Dr Abdel-Meguid said post-war security arrangements would be defensive in nature, not imposed from abroad but

decided from within the Arab world, and based on the charter of the Arab League and its common defence pact. A new security pact would not constitute an axis that is hostile to the forces that do not form part of it, he said.

After a first round of talks, Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, said there were no differences between the eight countries involved on plans for the security, political and economic future of the Middle East.

"Our understanding of co-operation and collaboration between the eight countries will be a solid basis and a general starting-point for collaboration between Arab countries, and this basis is open to these countries," he said. Dr Abdel-Meguid, in his address, said a just settlement

to the Palestinian question was a key element to future stability in the Middle East.

"We will make all efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian problem based on international legality and guarantees of their national rights to self-determination and the creation of their independent state," he said.

In a reference to the Palestine Liberation Organisation's support for Iraq in the Gulf conflict, he said: "We are all agreed that we should not mix the cause of the Palestinian people with the positions of some of their leaders."

The Egyptian foreign minister also called on Arab institutions and monetary funds to make a careful study for a global and equitable development in the Arab world. During the Gulf conflict, Iraq attacked the economic disparity between the oil-rich southern states in the Gulf and the poorer northern countries that make up the rest of the Arab world.

Turning to the Arab League, which is now based in Cairo, Dr Abdel-Meguid refused claims that it had failed to resolve the Gulf conflict, maintaining it had played an important role in the liberation of Kuwait. Most countries at an Arab summit in the Egyptian capital on August 10 had voted in favour of sending troops to the Gulf.

The meeting in Damascus follows initial talks in Cairo last month between Egypt and Syria and the co-operation council, which were united in the American-led, anti-Iraqi coalition in the Gulf.

A new security arrangement aimed at leading to the deployment of an Arab force in the Gulf that would trim the presence of Western troops in the sensitive region to an absolute minimum, diplomatic sources said in Damascus. Saudi Arabia and its five partners were expected to provide the funds.

ABU DHABI: Eight United Arab Emirates servicemen died during Operation Desert Storm, Sheikh Muhammad bin Rashid al-Maktoum, the defence minister, said. Another 14 were injured, with all casualties occurring during the allied land offensive to liberate Kuwait. (AFP)

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ISRAEL

Levy set to seize chance for peace

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ISRAEL sees a new constructive among Arab states that fought with the allied coalition. David Levy, Israel's foreign minister, told Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, that if the Damascus summit of the eight Arab countries drew up a strategy for Gulf stability that renounced violence Israel was ready to co-operate. "The eight could be eight plus one."

He indicated his country was willing to open parallel negotiations with neighbouring Arab states on the basis of peace proposals it put forward in 1989. Despite Israel's strong opposition until recently to an international peace conference, he agreed with Mr Hurd that such a conference would be needed in the longer term.

Mr Hurd said the conference needed much preparation and it should not be convened until it was clear who would represent the Palestinians. He said in Brussels on Monday there was a good chance of resolving some historical problems. "There is a bit of a breeze - I do not say it is enough to fill the sail or to get us in port."

Mr Levy offered no new proposals or any promise that his fellow cabinet ministers

were ready for a new initiative. But the British side was struck by his positive approach and the generally warm relations, and by his clear understanding that the Gulf war had opened opportunities for peace that should not be lost.

Mr Levy's visit was to thank Britain for its support during the Gulf war and to build on a good relationship he established with Mr Hurd in telephone calls while Israel was under attack from Iraqi Scud missiles. His visit, just before a trip to Israel by three European Community foreign ministers and the discussions James Baker, the US Secretary of State, will hold in Jerusalem, underlined Britain's role in trying to get Arab-Israeli peace talks going again.

Britain wants to give a nudge to quiet diplomacy, but believes a framework for peace negotiations is still needed. There was little discussion yesterday of the occupied territories and the other specific negotiating issues. Mr Hurd said Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation had not helped its cause during the Gulf war, but Britain believed the Palestinians had to decide how they should be represented.

WAR COVERAGE

Reporters listed as missing in Basra

By SUSAN ELLICOTT
IN WASHINGTON
AND JOHN PHILLIPS
IN PARIS

AROUND 27 foreign reporters were missing yesterday after setting off without a military escort for Basra, where heavy fighting by opposition and government forces for control of Iraq's second largest city is being reported.

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman warned that the journalists could be in serious danger, while an American official in Riyadh said it was a "stupid idea" for journalists to travel outside the military's closely-watched news pools. News organisations have complained that the Pentagon's reporting rules were too strict and a growing number of journalists have broken away from official minders.

The missing journalists include 15 of France's best known reporters, including the correspondents and crew from the television channels TFI, Antenne 2 and La Cinq, reporters for Radio Monte Carlo, and correspondents from *Le Monde* and *Libération* newspapers. *L'Evenement du Jeudi* magazine and a photographer from Reuters Paris news agency. Among the journalists listed as missing by the Pentagon are two Reuters photographers, correspondents from CNN television, The New York Times and National Public Radio.

A French foreign ministry spokesman said of the French journalists: "The French government is seriously concerned about their fate, and has made every useful and necessary contact to try and know what happened to them in order that they might obtain their liberty."



Happy day: Helen Peters, wife of Flight Lieutenant John Peters, with son Guy, aged two, and baby daughter Toni, aged six months, waiting for him to return to Leuchbrunn, Germany. Flight Lieutenant Peters, aged 29, the Tornado pilot whose appearance on Baghdad television caused an international outcry, is one of three British prisoners of war who were released by the Iraqis on Monday

IRAQ

Kuwaiti property will be returned

FROM REUTERS
IN BAGHDAD

IRAQ has decided to return all property it seized after its August 2 invasion of Kuwait, Baghdad radio said yesterday, quoting the official Iraqi news agency INA. The agency said the decision on Monday by the Revolutionary Command Council, headed by President Saddam Hussein, was in implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The radio said Saddam chaired the command council meeting on Monday to assess the latest "political developments". It said the command council instructed the foreign ministry to inform the United Nations and work with Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, on "taking the proper measures to implement the decision".

Baghdad last week accepted all security council resolutions, which included an order to rescind all laws which contravene UN decisions. Señor Pérez de Cuellar said on Monday he had the impression that Iraq was trying to make every effort to implement all the requirements of various UN resolutions.

Iraq seized all Kuwaiti government property and the assets of the country's ruling al-Sabah family after annexing the emirate. It also confiscated, in Iraq and Kuwait, American assets and those of other nations which implemented the United Nations' economic blockade imposed after the invasion.

WASHINGTON: Edward Gnehm, the United States ambassador to Kuwait, is working out of his home because the embassy in Kuwait City is too heavily damaged, according to an American official. "The ambassador and his staff are living on military rations and bottled water, using electricity supplied by emergency generators," a spokeswoman said. (AP)

PALESTINIAN EXODUS

Hundreds flee to land stricken with turmoil

FROM LIN JENKINS IN SAFAWAN, SOUTHERN IRAQ

THE black, driving rain and premature nightfall, brought on by hundreds of oil well fires, added to the despair of Palestinians who took to the roads in their hundreds yesterday to flee Kuwait for an uncertain future in Iraq.

At the border near Safawan, on the road to Basra, they arrived in long convoys with meagre possessions, tied precariously in cardboard boxes on car roofs, soaking wet in the rain. Their hurried departure reflected their fear of violent reprisals for the Palestine Liberation Organisation's support for President Saddam Hussein and the actions of a small number of Palestinian collaborators who influenced on the Kuwaiti resistance movement and Western expatriates hiding in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

During the last two days there has also been an exodus in the opposite direction as Kuwaitis and Egyptians in Basra and other southern Iraqi towns took advantage of the popular uprising against Saddam to flee, often on foot, to safety in liberated Kuwait. But by yesterday the flow south had stopped. The appearance of the Republican Guard at the first checkpoint in Iraq hinted that government forces had regained control in the area.

There were reports of Republican Guards moving into Basra with tanks to retake the city after anti-government forces released prisoners from jail and killed several Baath party officials. Those fleeing spoke of gunfire and killings in the street. Some journalists were held for an hour when they ventured further than the final United States checkpoint on Iraqi soil and were stopped by the Republican Guard.

Some Palestinians had punctures picked up on the road heavily pitted with holes from aircraft fire and littered with metal fragments from exploding tanks, lorries and the civilians' cars the soldiers took for their hurried departure from the capital.

Others simply ran out of petrol, which in postwar Ku-

wait remains a rare commodity. A group of three vehicles, one with a woman clutching a baby, flagged down passing cars in a search for fuel. They were reluctant to say why they were going, beyond the simple reason: "There is too much problem in Kuwait." Nearer to Kuwait City some of the departing caravans appeared to have a Kuwaiti military escort, but it was impossible to say whether they were leaving on their own initiative.

Certainly they appeared to be going for good. Possessions weighed down the cars, most of which had their registration plates removed. One US soldier manning a checkpoint confirmed that a steady stream had started early in the day and that it was the first on which such traffic had gone through. "I'm surprised they haven't taken the kitchen sink with them, they have taken everything else."

Whether the Palestinians in Kuwait, estimated to be around 400,000, know the events going on in Iraq is impossible to tell. With no power in the city for months and shortage of batteries for radios, few people have access to news, but many have suffered severe beatings at the hands of the Kuwaiti army and resistance beat on reprisal, despite assurances from the government that only those who collaborated will be punished after a fair trial.

Michael Weston, the British ambassador, believes they will simply be expelled, but there are rumours of plans for military tribunals with the sentence of execution. In Hawally, the Palestinian sector, the scene seems to suggest that those seeking out the informers and collaborators establish nationality before they act rather than complicity.

Islamic state 'will replace Saddam'

FROM JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN MADRID

A KEY Iraq opposition leader yesterday forecast the establishment of an Islamic government in Baghdad after the downfall of President Saddam Hussein, boldly reaffirming the belief that free elections in Iraq would give unprecedented power to Shia Muslim revolutionaries.

Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, who heads the Tehran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, told Madrid's *El País* newspaper that he was confident a fundamentalist system would be adopted and that it would reflect the will of the Iraqi people.

Rebels in southern Iraq, he said, were driven by "a Muslim impulse and are marching on the road of revolutionary Muslim leadership". Asked if he would establish a revolutionary Islamic government, a popular cause among Iraq's

Shia Muslim majority, Ayatollah al-Hakim replied: "Yes. We want to form a government through free elections. Since we know that the Iraqi people are Islamic, we think that the future government of Iraq will be Islamic, too."

The cleric, aged 52, who escaped to Iran after Iraqi agents murdered 22 of his relatives in a purge against the opposition al-Dawa al-Islamiyah (The Islamic Call) party in the late 1970s, said he planned to return to Iraq "as soon as possible".

The ayatollah said the Kurds confronting Iraqi troops in the north were co-ordinating operations with the Shia Muslim rebels.

The ayatollah's remarks contradicted efforts by several opposition figures to portray moderation in future politics in order to win Western support.

UNITED STATES

Feelings mixed over Iraq uprising

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON privately views the uprisings in southern Iraq with trepidation as much as hope, despite its strong desire to see President Saddam Hussein overthrown. While the Bush administration expects that forces loyal to Saddam will crush the unrest, officials have to consider the possibility that Islamic fundamentalists aligned with Iran could take power. Alternatively, Iraq could be plunged into a protracted, three-sided civil war, with the Kurds seeking autonomy in the north, that could break up the country and destabilise the region.

"There is a sense in Washington that anyone would be better than Saddam," said Daniel Pipes, director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, yesterday. "On the other hand, the stability, security and territorial integrity of Iraq are probably even more important." Joel Wit, an expert on security issues at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said: "What everyone feared might happen may be beginning. If a Shia opposition took over, you could end up with an Iraq that might be even more hostile to the West than Saddam Hussein was."

On the positive side, Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, who is widely reported to be involved in the uprisings, is part of a new coalition with the Kurds that is outwardly committed to a democratic Iraq. Officials argue that Iraqi Shias are not automatically anti-Western as their Iranian counterparts were.

James Baker, the Secretary of State, leaves for the Middle East tomorrow to try to resuscitate the Arab-Israeli peace process, but experts say the administration, preoccupied with winning the war, has given little thought to the more pressing problem of postwar Iraq.

Publicly, officials say Iraq's future is a matter for the Iraqis, but America has a strong interest in preserving Iraq's stability and territory and its best hope appears to be that Saddam will be toppled by a "clean-shaven Colonel X" from within the military. Saudi Arabia is reported to be working with a group of exiles which it hopes could form a government and take power, though none seems to have much of a following in Iraq. The four names being mentioned are: General Hassan Nagib, a former commander of Iraqi forces in Jordan; Ibrahim ad-Daoud, a former defence minister and head of the Republican Guard; Abdel-Ghani Hrawi, a former general involved in an abortive coup against Saddam in 1970; and Saad Jabr, the son of a former Iraqi prime minister.

In Washington yesterday, it was unclear to what extent the Iraqis were fomenting the unrest in southern Iraq. Shia Muslims, largely concentrated in the south, are numerically dominant, but minority Sunni Arabs have long dominated Iraq's political and military establishments.

KUWAIT CITY NOTEBOOK by Christopher Walker

Driven over a black-market barrel for £21 a gallon

THE greatest irony of the Gulf war and its painful aftermath is that, in one of the richest oil-producing areas in the world, the product apart from water which is now in shortest supply and greatest demand is petrol.

While the ominous black cloud caused by more than 500 oil-well fires hangs over the southern outskirts of Kuwait City, residents, journalists and soldiers alike struggle to find a source of supply for petrol. Although it is being given away free at the few filling stations still open and relatively unvandalised by the Iraqis, the crowds are so enormous it can take a whole day to fill one five-gallon can.

Whispered directions are given by grateful Kuwaitis to Westerners whom they genuinely want to help, but the Catch-22 is that once the petrol-consuming journey has been made to find the alleged source, it frequently turns out to have been a mirage. On the black market, the going rate is \$200 (£105) for five gallons, with American television

networks being charged more. To escape the problem, they have begun ordering in bulk and sending up tankers from neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

Such was the wanton destruction of Kuwait's 930 oil wells that all are either on fire or damaged by explosives. Officials estimate that it will be at least nine months before sufficient work has been done to enable the liberated emirate to begin its exports of crude again.

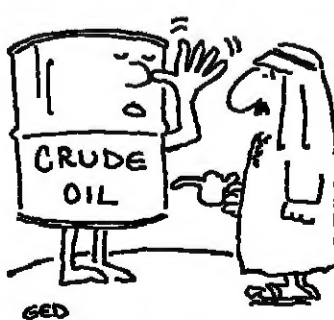
"Nobody knows how many wells are on fire because you cannot get near them. Everywhere is mined," said an official of the Kuwait Oil Company. "An aerial survey will be completed next week and we will then have a clearer picture before firefighting and repairs begin."

As well as the toxic plumes of black smoke shooting into the sky, the fires produce a menacing roar which shakes the desert sand for miles around and adds to perhaps the most convincing impression given on earth of how hell might be.

A rich and jubilant Kuwaiti arrived at the dusty car park behind the reoccupied British embassy recently clutching bottles of whisky which he generously handed from his car to those present as an appreciation of their efforts in throwing out the Iraqis. It was a sign that the strict anti-alcohol laws, which made Kuwait, along with Saudi Arabia, Iran and Libya, the only dry states in the region may soon come under severe strain.

Some British officers have already celebrated their departure from Saudi Arabia by filling full hip flasks, while Americans have found a supply of beer. The Western influence failed to change much in Saudi Arabia, but the ground is more fertile in Kuwait where Islamic rules are treated with relative laxity in the *diwanas* - traditional male meeting places attached to most large houses.

"They cannot provide sufficient law and order to stop anti-Palestinian revenge squads roaming the streets, so it does not seem to me they are going to be able to stop us



drinking," said one American correspondent, sniping from a bottle of Scotch that had been provided by a Kuwaiti contact.

According to military sources, allied commanders have insisted that less strict Islamic rules be imposed if some Western forces are to stay on in a peacekeeping role. Unlike the Saudi *mutawana*, there has been no sign of any Kuwaiti religious police anxious to impose Muslim laws. Once the royal family returns, it is expected that alcohol will become available through private suppliers given a large nod and wink, but remain

banned for public sale and for consumption on the national carrier, Kuwait Airways.

Although Kuwait has long lived in the shadow of Saudi Arabia, its women always enjoyed greater personal and professional freedom than their Saudi sisters, with many holding government positions and, for instance, driving their own cars. Few wore the all-enveloping black robes that have caused the GIs to nickname Saudi females "Ninja Turtles". The fortitude with which women stood up to the occupation and the increasing Western influence resulting from the liberation is expected to accelerate female emancipation. Pressure is already building up for women to be given the vote in elections expected within the next 12 months. First-time visitors have been amazed at the openness of the women, many of whom have been blowing kisses at the allied troops and openly flirting from the expensive Western cars in which they have been touring the streets.

Banker says al-Sabahs have hit list of democrats

By SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON AND ELAINE FOGG IN LONDON

A PROMINENT Kuwaiti banker alleged yesterday that Kuwait's ruling family has drawn up a hit list of members of the country's democratic opposition and hired assassins to kill them.

Abdul Aziz Sultan, chairman of the Gulf Bank of Kuwait, the country's second largest, said in an American interview that the democracy movement believed some members of the ruling al-Sabahs had set up assassination squads in Kuwait.

"We have heard that certain members in certain Arab countries have formed militias of some Kuwaitis and mercenaries with the intended aim of forcing their rule on Kuwait," Dr Abdul Aziz said on ABC's Nightline programme. He added that they

believed that other members of the family intended to send the militias to Kuwait to assassinate prominent democracy activists.

Dr Abdul Aziz said one member of the al-Sabah family had assembled a private militia of about 3,000 people. He added that he was making his accusations public in the hope they would forestall violence.

There are conflicting reports about the militias, with some putting their size at anywhere between 3,000 and 10,000. The militias are believed to have been behind the attempt to assassinate Hamad al-Jouman, a lawyer and a prominent member of the Kuwaiti democratic movement. He was shot last Thursday when he answered a call at the door of his house in Kuwait City.

The leader of the democracy movement based in London, Ahmed al-Khatib, who was also a former national assembly deputy, said it was "common knowledge" that Syria was a training base for the militias. He said he could not supply further details, but that he had raised the issue at a cabinet meeting last month in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

Dr al-Khatib said the democracy movement had known for many months that the al-Sabah family had organised protection. "We passed this information on to the US and British governments a few months ago," he said, adding that Scotland Yard officers had offered him advice three weeks ago on extra security precautions at his home after an incident involving his car.

Dr al-Khatib, who contends that there are around 650 adult men in the ruling family, said the al-Sabahs had tightened their grip over administrative affairs while in exile.

Another opposition source was quoted last week as saying that Khaled Jaber al-Sabah, a brother of the emir, was placed in charge of the Kuwaiti embassy in London over the head of the ambassador.

"The security police could be seen in the embassy soon after the invasion. When I went to the embassy to hand in my passport I bumped into the man who looked after my rooms when I was jailed for five days in May 1990," said Dr al-Khatib.

Donna Sultan, the American wife of Dr Abdul Aziz, who also owns a supermarket in Kuwait, the Sultan Centre, said the broadcast was the first time she had seen her husband for six and a half months.

Speaking from Boston, she said: "I had been tipped off by ABC that he would be appearing and there he was making these bombshell remarks. Abdul Aziz is not the kind of man to make a statement based on hearsay."

Later in the programme Sheikh Saud Nasir al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington, said he was "extremely disappointed" with the banker's accusations, and that such talk could "drive a wedge between the Kuwaiti people".



Names and numbers: a Kuwaiti official, working with the American military, holding the passports of several men lined up yesterday at a checkpoint near Kuwait City in oil-laden heavy rain. The authorities are hunting for Iraqi soldiers trying to escape and people seeking to enter the country illegally amid the great movement of refugees. The black driving rain and premature nightfall, brought on by hundreds of oil well fires, added to the despair of Palestinians who took to the roads to flee Kuwait for an uncertain future in Iraq (Lin Jenkins writes from Safwan, southern Iraq). At the nearby border, on the road to Basra, they arrived in long convoys. Their meagre possessions, tied precariously in cardboard boxes and stored on car roofs, were soaking wet under the inadequate protection of blankets. The hurried departure reflected their fear of violent reprisals for the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's support of President Saddam Hussein.

ENVIRONMENT

Oil pollution casts financial pall on emirate

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT is facing an environmental nightmare, with tons of toxins pouring into the air daily and a huge oil slick lapping its coastline. The Iraqi sabotage that caused the problems also hurt Kuwait's economy so extensively that the emirate lacks the money to clean up the pollution.

The magnitude of the problem is beyond the capacity of Kuwait, administratively, technically and financially," said Musab Aly Ascen, Kuwait Oil Company's superintendent of oil reservoirs at the Greater Burgan oil fields, 25 miles south of Kuwait City. "It's a total catastrophe."

Greater Burgan is one of the world's largest oil fields. The Iraqis set alight almost all of the 654 wells two days before the allies launched the ground war to liberate Kuwait. Mr Aly Ascen said: "Driving toward the inferno, the colour of the sky darkens from deep blue to ashen gray to midnight black within the space of miles. Because no sunlight has been reaching the desert floor, the temperature in Greater Burgan at midday was about 5C (41F), considerably cooler than in nearby Kuwait City. Streaks of fire shoot hundreds of feet into the air, roaring like jet fighter planes and releasing acrid black smoke. Soot falls like black snowflakes. Pools of leaking oil form fiery lakes. Dozens of unattended cattle searching for food pass by, their white hides covered with soot.

"The effect on the ozone, the ecology, the marine life is massive. We aren't even breathing air here, just smog," said Ali al-Qabandi, of the Kuwait Oil Company.

Some of the burning wells in western Kuwait have a relatively high concentration of hydrogen sulphide, a toxic gas, Mr Aly Ascen said, that is soluble in water. Fortunately, few people live in the area.

In the waters of the Gulf, oil released by the Iraqis from a Kuwaiti terminal, estimated at up to two million barrels, has been partially contained but not cleaned up. The spill already has killed thousands of birds and marine life.

Curfew is imposed in Kuwait

Nicosia — Kuwait's rulers imposed an indefinite night curfew yesterday, a week after the occupying Iraqi troops had fled. The official Kuwait news agency Kuna, received in Cyprus, said the curfew would be in force between 10pm and 4am (20.00-02.00 GMT). The report said the curfew was imposed "to complete security and stability aspects in the country".

The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, last week imposed martial law for three months and appointed his Crown Prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, military governor-general. Sheikh Saad returned to Kuwait on Monday, the first senior member of the ruling family to do so. The emir is still in Taif, Saudi Arabia.

Israeli Scud toll

Jerusalem — Two Israelis were killed and 239 injured by Iraqi missile attacks during the Gulf war, the army said in its final casualty toll. It said another 13 Israelis had died of heart attacks or from missing their gas masks during the missile raids. The Iraqis fired 39 Scud missiles at the Jewish state in 18 attacks between January 18 and February 25. They hit northern, southern and central Israel. (Reuters)

Buried wealth

Kuwait City — A Kuwaiti millionaire who preserved his wealth during the invasion by burying much of it in his garden invited an Agence France-Presse reporter yesterday to witness the unearthing of a package, about the size of a football, that contained the equivalent of £160,000 in Kuwaiti dinars. (AFP)

Filipino priority

Mandila — Filipino workers will receive priority in applying to fulfil the manpower needs of Saudi Arabia for postwar reconstruction, said Muhammad Ibrahim Masoud, Saudi minister of state, on a visit to the Philippines. (AFP)

Fear of mines still stalks the troops

FROM REUTERS IN DHAHRAN

THE muzzle of Dave Wiecek's machinegun was stuck in the sand. His helmet rested on the weapon, his boots beside it. At a simple memorial service in the Iraqi desert, Charlie Company gathered round to pay tribute to the 20-year-old from Gentry, Arkansas, who died after stepping on a US cluster bomb.

"The army teaches you to walk with head held high. From now on, I look at the ground," Private Mike Jones, aged 20, from Dallas, Texas, told reporters at the front. Private Jones, still tormented by the memory, had grasped Wiecek's hand as the young man's life ebbed away. Since the land war ended, 11 American soldiers have been killed and three wounded, US military officials said. In a war with such low casualties — about 160 allied troops were killed in the fighting — it is a heart-wrenchingly high figure.

Deaths have ranged from roadside explosions to a helicopter crash. One soldier accidentally shot dead a colleague while cleaning his M16 pistol.

Major Marie Rossi, one of

the first women soldiers to cross into Iraq, was an army pilot from New Jersey who died when her Chinook helicopter crashed last Friday.

US Marine Rodney Ramsey, a 22-year-old from Bassett, Virginia, was one of the lucky ones who lived to tell his tale of being blown up by a landmine.

Recovering at a base hospital in Saudi Arabia, he said: "There are mines everywhere out there in Kuwait. The desert wind blows and covers them up. Most of us are in a kind of relaxed mood. The war is over. But you have to keep the mines in mind. The desert is very dangerous."

That thought was heartily echoed in the Iraqi desert by Major Ronald Griffith, commander of the US 1st Armoured Division, who said: "We've got to get out of this minefield we are living in. There is nothing out here I want to stay for. We have done our job."

Just yards from his headquarters in the desert, the fin of a US bomb protruded from the sand. It had been hastily fenced off to stop soldiers stepping on it.

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Major finds Gorbachev a man to do business with

From MARY DIEVSKY IN MOSCOW

JOHN Major left Moscow last night apparently confident that he had rekindled the special relationship enjoyed by his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, and President Gorbachev. Altogether, Mr Major spent four hours with the Soviet leader, including a working lunch and talks which he described afterwards as "enjoyable and interesting".

"The United Kingdom can continue to do business with Mr Gorbachev in a very satisfactory manner," he told a final press conference, echoing Mrs Thatcher's phrase. He said that his talks had been at times "intense", especially on the question of independence for the Baltic republics, but added: "I don't mean ill-humoured, but frank and free... candid, but good-natured."

President Gorbachev's spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, said, after attending the lunch, that the talks had been "very

friendly and very open". He said: "A very good relationship is forming... indeed, has already been formed." As if confirming this impression, Mr Major said that Mr Gorbachev had accepted his invitation to visit Britain soon and that he had been invited back to Moscow.

Both Mr Ignatenko and Mr Major were keen to emphasise the broad agreement between the two countries about post-war policy in the Gulf. The widest divergences emerged on arms control and policy towards the Baltic republics.

Mr Major told reporters that there was still a gap on Baltic policy, but there is agreement about how that gap is to be bridged — through negotiation. He expressed satisfaction that "at the end of negotiations, conducted through the constitutional process, the prospect of independence was there".



Troop inspection: an honour guard watching John Major pass through their ranks yesterday before laying a wreath in Soviet war dead. He is the first leader of the anti-Iraqi alliance to visit the Kremlin since the Gulf conflict.

Shadow of Iron Lady fades in Moscow sun

From ROBIN OAKLEY IN MOSCOW

SHE was not there again yesterday, but a presence remained. Having successfully got through an EC summit, a bilateral at Camp David with President Bush and a Gulf foray to cheer British troops, John Major had one more hurdle to overcome in proving that he can do anything Margaret Thatcher could do — a meeting in the Kremlin with President Gorbachev, the man she star-spotted for the West.

On occasions they could scarcely bear to be torn apart. Banquets were left simmering on the stove, connections missed, and once the second half of a Moscow ballet performance was held up.

But after four hours of what he called "sometimes intense talks", which ended with them swapping invitations for official visits, Mr Major had clearly leaped the latest hurdle, too.

His final emergence from the shadow was marked deftly with an in-joke, when he told the Moscow press conference in relation to their exchanges on the thorny question of conventional force reductions that Mr Gorbachev had admitted: "There is no alternative." Oh Tina, where are you now?

Certainly the pace remains one which Mrs Thatcher would approve. Having arrived late the night before, the prime minister took breakfast at 8am with representatives of the Baltic republics. By 9.15, well prepared because he had read the full IMF report on the Soviet economy, he was tucking into local liberals and radicals, ranging from the mayor of Leningrad through the director of Moscow's aviation institute to Dr Alexei Arbatov from the Institute of World Economic Affairs.

He is developing the Thatcher habit of "get me a good intellectual on that". They told him in response to his enquiries that the only thing the Soviet Union knew still about monetary theory was counting rouble notes.

He told them that economic reform would get nowhere without privatisation and the private ownership of land. Doubting Tory right-wingers please note.

There was, too, a touch of the old-style one-upmanship when Mr Major was the only coxswain figure at the wreath-laying ceremony beside the

tomb of the unknown warrior. It was sunny but freezing. Perhaps the Huntington corner shop does a good line in thermals.

In the afternoon, after the Gorbachev talks and lunch, Mr Major packed in meetings with the prime minister, Valentin Pavlov, the defence minister, Dmitri Yazov, and the foreign minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, before giving a press conference which was hugely attended by Moscow's standards, better in fact than on Mrs Thatcher's last appearance in the Soviet capital. But then he had been awarded a quarter-hour profile on local TV the night before.

What followed was anodyne and cautious. Mr Major may have trouble winning quite so much attention next time in Moscow, with the novelty value gone.

Pakistanis withdraw confessions

Karachi — Four witnesses in a murder case against Asif Ali Zardari, the husband of Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister of Pakistan, recanted confessions they say they were forced to make by torture.

Zahid Saeed, a youth leader of her Pakistan People's Party, and three others told an anti-terrorism court they were made to sign confessions implicating Mr Zardari. A businessman aged 38, Mr Zardari is facing trial for alleged involvement in the killings last August of 28 supporters of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement party. He was charged with murder last month, after Mr Saeed's confession. (AP)

Refugee search

Otranto, Italy — A search was under way for a boat carrying 25 Albanians after it sent out a distress call in the Adriatic. More than 800 Albanians have already fled by boat to the Italian ports of Otranto and Brindisi in the past two weeks as tensions have risen in Albania. The port authorities in Brindisi warned all vessels in the region to stand by to help with possible rescues. (AFP)

Tigers bombed

Colombo — The Sri Lankan air force bombed hideouts of Tamil Tiger guerrillas suspected of killing Ranjan Wijeratne, the deputy defence minister, who was among up to 33 people who died when a bomb exploded in his car last weekend. Air force targets in the Jaffna peninsula included camps and ammunition factories of the rebels. (Reuters)

Korea elections

Seoul — President Roh Tae Woo has announced that South Korea's first local elections for 30 years will be held on March 26. He urged people to help keep the elections fair and put corruption and scandals behind them. "This election will be a stepping stone for future political development," he said. (AP)



Thatcher: first to spot Gorbachev's star quality

Trendy Americans decide to go native

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN Indians are making their biggest comeback since Custer's Last Stand at Little Big Horn. Preliminary results from last year's census show that the number of Americans claiming Indian blood has increased by more than a third in the past decade.

"More people are identifying themselves as Indian than did in 1960, 1970 or 1980, and the biggest increase has been in the traditionally non-Indian areas," said David Word, a demographer at the US Census Bureau. Much of the rise in the American Indian population, now estimated at 1.8 million, is attributable to the fact that it is now fashionable to claim Indian ancestry. In the 38 states for which figures are available, the 1990 ethnic breakdown shows an increase of 38 per cent from 1980 in the number of people identifying themselves as American Indian. Some of the sharpest rises are in states with few Indians — 118 per cent in Alabama and 78 per cent in New Jersey.

Jeffrey Passel, who follows the Indian population for the Urban Institute in Washington, said: "Between the 1960 and 1970 censuses we saw a significant shift, but not as great as what has happened since. That coincided with a resurgence of the native American movement in the

late 60s. That was the beginning of a greater awareness in general in the United States of ethnic background."

Mr Passel says only two-thirds of the increase in the 1980s can be explained by high fertility. More people who once "passed" as white are asserting their Indian heritage. Tribal officials report growing attendance at Indian cultural events, such as traditional pow-wows, and museums complain that more and more people are claiming the return of the remains of their American Indian ancestors.

Added to the sense of spiritual wholeness, however, are some strictly financial concerns. People of Indian heritage can claim government grants for college fees assistance with health care hunting and fishing rights and eligibility for government contracts. In one case, a Californian who was one-sixty-fourth American Indian won a \$11 million contract (£10.05 million) set aside for minority-owned businesses by the Los Angeles public transport authority.

The census form does not require proof of Indian ancestry. Although some tribes require applicants to prove they are one-half Indian, others admit members with a claim to as little as one-two-thousandth.

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Mandela witnesses may break their silence

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO key witnesses, afraid to testify against Winnie Mandela, have been placed under police protection, raising the possibility that they will now give evidence when her trial on kidnap and serious assault charges resumes today after a three-week adjournment.

The proceedings against Mrs Mandela, the wife of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, ground to a halt last month when Kenneth Kgase, aged 31, and Barand Mono, aged 21, told the supreme court in Johannesburg that they feared

for their lives. The police have failed to trace a third witness, Gabriel Mckgwe, aged 22, who was last seen being escorted from a church mission in Soweto by ANC members.

All three are plaintiffs in the case. It is alleged that Mrs Mandela and seven others abducted and repeatedly assaulted them. The leader of Mrs Mandela's bodyguards, known as the Mandela football club, was sentenced to death last August for murdering a youth kidnapped at the same time.

The South African government has applied to Botswana for the extradition of three of four co-accused bodyguards who skipped bail and disappeared in January. They were reported to have been seen at a Botswana refugee camp used by the ANC.

The first public cracks in solidarity with Mrs Mandela appeared this week when two prominent anti-apartheid organisations expressed concern at ANC attitudes to the trial. Black Sash, a national grouping of mainly white women which identifies with black aspirations, said the apparent indifference of the ANC to the kidnapping and intimidation of witnesses was disturbing.

Barbara Buntman, who chairs the Five Freedoms Forum, took the unusual step of castigating the ANC in a local newspaper article. In a related development, a journalist was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment yesterday for refusing to disclose his sources for a report concerning Mrs Mandela's trial. Patrick Lawrence, aged 53, a senior reporter for *The Star* in Johannesburg and a correspondent for foreign newspapers, implicated ANC members in the disappearance of Mr Mckgwe. Passing sentence, the magistrate said it should not be regarded as punishment, but rather as a measure to induce Mr Lawrence to reveal his sources.



Cash check: President Chamorro of Nicaragua giving money to people as she leaves a supermarket where she had been checking food prices (Our Foreign Staff writes). She was told by one of the staff that the shop's 45 workers would be

sacked next week. Señora Violeta Chamorro, whose government has announced severe austerity measures with an 80 per cent devaluation of the córdoba to cut 13,000 per cent inflation, promised the staff would not be fired.

Brazilian union chief shot

FROM LOUISE BYRNE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

A UNION leader was shot in the Amazonian town of Rio Maria on Monday, the latest victim of rural violence in Brazil which has killed more than 1,600 people in the past 26 years.

Carlos Cabral, aged 30, was shot and wounded as he returned home from a meeting at the local priest's house. Senhor Cabral is the third president of the Rio Maria Rural Workers' Union to be shot. His predecessor was murdered a month ago and the union founder, Senhor Cabral's father-in-law João Canuto, was killed in 1985.

Rio Maria is in a region considered the most violent

rural area in Brazil. In the past ten years more than 170 peasant farmers, union leaders, clergymen and politicians have been killed in a frontier region which joins the three Amazonian states of Pará, Tocantins and Maranhão, most in the conflict over land.

In Acre, rubber tapper and union leader Chico Mendes became the most famous victim of the landowners because of his pro-ecology views. Last April Father Ricardo Rezende, who has lived in Pará for 13 years, called for police protection for both Senhor Cabral and his predecessor, later murdered. State police were in the region for

several months, but were then removed.

In Rio de Janeiro last week, Father Rezende, aged 38, whose life has also been threatened by local ranch owners, said there would be no peace in the region until ranch owners were disarmed and the government carried out widespread agrarian reform. "The government of President Fernando Collor de Mello has now been in power for one year and yet there has been no serious agrarian reform," said Father Rezende, who also visited Brasília to call for protection for at least seven people in Rio Maria "marked to die".

Chile reveals barbarity of Pinochet years

FROM LAKE SAGARIS IN SANTIAGO

ONE mother described how her only son was shot in the street; another mother, how she had to explain to her five-year-old that, just as people kill animals, they sometimes kill other human beings. Their evidence was part of a report released this week by President Aylwin of Chile, a powerful condemnation of the deaths of 2,279 people in political violence during the 17-year military rule under General Augusto Pinochet.

The first mother said: "He was shot in the street near our house. I went out and found his body. They shouted at me to bury the dog that had died. That dog was my only son." The other reported: "When my son turned 17, he needed to know where his father was so badly that I said, 'Go to the cemetery, look for the most abandoned grave, care for it as if it were your father's'."

While victims' relatives welcomed the report by the National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, they said that those responsible must be tried, including General Pinochet, president between 1973 and 1990, and now army commander-in-chief. Political parties, including General Pinochet's former supporters, cautiously praised the report. There has been no public response from the armed forces.

The report includes 132 members of the security forces among the victims, but criticises Chile's officers for their ignorance of the laws and morality of war. The commission said 70 per cent of the 2,279 who died were aged under 30. It was unable to reach conclusions in another 1,000 cases. Victims ranged from a 15-day-old baby to a grandmother, aged 85, who died during national protests against the military regime.

The commission did not name those responsible, although they are generally known. Cases must be tried in the same courts which supported the military government. President Aylwin, however, urged judges to change and announced that reforms are under way.

The president said victims' families would be compensated. An organisation would be created to continue the search for remains and an independent ombudsman appointed to defend human rights.

President Aylwin called on the armed forces to reveal all they knew about the 957 who disappeared. Their bodies, according to the report, were blown up, hidden in abandoned mines and secret cemeteries, or thrown into rivers or the sea.

The commission, which held hearings for nine months, found that people were killed for revenge, mistaken identity, for passing messages to imprisoned relatives during visits and for ceasing to co-operate with the regime. Common criminals were murdered from a "perverse concept of the idea of maintaining order. In quite a few cases, torture was practised not as part of interrogation but rather as an expression of cruelty and the lowest passions of an agent or guard."

In a national broadcast, Señor Aylwin endorsed the commission's criticism of the courts, which they accused of "aggravating the process of systematic human rights violations by not providing those arrested with protection, as well as granting repressive agents a growing certainty of impunity for their criminal actions".

Sedition trial for Kenyan editor

Nairobi - The editor of a magazine that has advocated multiparty politics in Kenya has been charged with sedition and violation of Kenya's publishing laws. Githu Imaniyara, aged 38, editor of *The Nairobi Law Monthly*, pleaded not guilty. He faces up to 10 years' imprisonment if convicted of sedition.

Also charged was Dominic Martin, a Briton, who was accused of printing the magazine while on cash bond for it had been deposited.

The sedition charge stems from a leading article in the February issue of the magazine that discussed tribal distribution of jobs in government departments and state corporations and implied that members of President Daniel arap Moi's tribe, the Kalenjin, were favoured in the job allocations. (AP)

Camp shooting

Bangkok - Thai soldiers opened fire on Vietnamese refugees who went on a rampage at Phanat Nikhom holding camp east of here in protest at their forcible repatriation. United Nations officials said five refugees received bullet wounds and another man was injured when he set fire to himself. But the officials denied reports that two refugees were killed in Monday's incident.

Treason charges

Lisbon - The trial has begun of José de Almeida, leader of the now largely inactive Azores Liberation Front, on treason charges arising from a press conference in Lisbon in 1986 at which he said that the only way to end the problems between mainland Portugal and the Azores was for the islands to be independent.

Thailand plea

Bangkok - The United States called formally for the release of the deposed Thai prime minister, Chatichai Choonbavan, following his arrest by the military in a coup 10 days ago. The US envoy also expressed hope that the process of a return to an elected civilian government would be prompt. (AFP)

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English? That's fighting talk

From the Gulf to the Baltic, anyone wishing to catch the world's ear must do so in English.

Michael Binyon, diplomatic editor, reports

English is already the language of commerce, aviation, and international organisations. Now it is also the language of war. The world turned in to the Gulf conflict in English. The briefings, the blitzes and the bombast were delivered in a single language that united the world in a common engagement. Saddam Hussein's speeches were subtitled in English. Bombs rained on Baghdad and Scuds fell on Riyadh while correspondents ducked and dodged to broadcast the dramatic events in English. Saudi colonels briefed fellow Arabs as well as the allied press pools in the familiar jargon of Pentagon English.

More than any other event, the war highlighted how much English has become the international medium of communication over the past 20 years. Almost all the officers of the Arab forces were able to tell CNN correspondents what their forces were doing. Kuwaiti exiles demonstrated a perfect command of the language as they vividly described their country's plight. Even the wretched Iraqi prisoners — enough to call out as they walked across allied lines, or to understand the curt instructions of early American captors. Germans interviewed Saudis, Russians negotiated with Iraqis, Japanese justified their absence in the same language.

Those without English fell casualty to the Anglo-Saxon monopoly. French officers, commanding 12,000 men in the field, began giving briefings in French. But virtually nobody apart from the French correspondents turned up. Little appeared of the French engagements or achievements in the world's press. Eventually the French switched to English. David

Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, speaks good French but no English. As a result, he barely appeared on television, and Israel's policy statements were delivered mainly by his deputy, Benjamin Netanyahu, causing considerable political friction within Israel. As for the smooth-tongued Iraqi ambassador to Paris, he won the reputation of being Iraq's senior diplomat in Europe mainly because it was left to him to improvise policy before the cameras. His camera-shy colleague in London was rarely sought out for interview as he was not so fluent.

Of course the ubiquitous presence of CNN, the Atlanta-based news channel, has reinforced the English-only rule. Never have war and the long prelude to it been conducted so much in the open and so much on television. And television has no time for translation, as Iraqi propagandists know.

Mastery of English is now a prerequisite for any statesman aspiring to a world role. One reason Aleksandr Bessmertnykh was picked to succeed Eduard Shevardnadze as Soviet foreign minister was that he had served long in the United States and could talk in Washington and the rest of the world without Pavel Palashenko, President Gorbachev's moonstruck senior diplomat, hovering in the background to translate. Hans-Dietrich Genscher decided after some years in office as West German foreign minister that he could no longer get by with just his native language. He applied himself with typical dedication, and now speaks passable (though strongly accented) English. And France, the stereotype of a country that takes its language as a matter of deep



United by a common language: Lithuanian independence protesters display a media-friendly placard in Vilnius

national pride, now produces ministers who mostly speak with the same elegance and precision in English as they do in French. Perhaps the culmination of the trend can be seen in the European Free Trade Association, the seven-nation body now negotiating new trading arrangements with the European Community. Although none of the Scandinavian or Alpine members speaks native English, that is their only official language of communication.

The world's oppressed have quickly learnt how to get their message across. Almost any demon-

stration intended to catch the cameras now has its sprinkling of English slogans. The Lithuanians hold up their placards calling on "Gorbachev to go home, or demanding 'freedom for Lithuania'". Nowhere does this seem more bizarre than in the heart of Moscow itself, where demonstrators against communism proclaim their defiance in a language once reserved for communism's ideological enemies.

The result, of course, is to make Anglophones ever lazier at learning the language of others. Douglas Hurd, a former career diplomat, can speak Mandarin Chinese, good

French and Italian. Chris Patten can manage a speech in Spanish. But only about half the rest of the cabinet can speak enough French to hold talks or give a speech.

War is the ultimate test of a language. In the past, wars were largely wordless affairs, and it often helped if the enemy could not understand the bloodcurdling cries of vengeance uttered by one side as it charged into the swords or guns of the other. Today, wars are mostly political, and politics depends on deft use of propaganda and rhetoric. In the wars of words, English is the preferred weapon.

Musical chairs begins for editors

Changes at the top in the *Daily Mirror* could have a knock-on effect

STAFF at the *Daily Mirror*, who watched their former editor Roy Greenacre joke about needing a new job as he pulled pints at the local Vagabond pub on Monday after clearing his desk, are now taking bets on who might take over from the now acting editor, Charles Wilson. Mr Wilson is the former editor of *The Times* and current editor-in-chief of *Sporting Life*.

"Any upheaval of this sort always brings with it a great deal of speculation. Charlie Wilson will be there long enough for us to find the right

editor for the *Daily Mirror*," says Roger Eastoe, the deputy managing director of Mirror Group Newspapers.

The newspaper industry is already busy watching the vacant editor's seat at the *Sunday Express*, following the dismissal of Robin Morgan two weeks ago. Eve Pollard, the editor of the *Sunday Mirror*, tipped as a candidate for the *Sunday Express*, has also emerged as a favourite for

the *Daily Mirror* editorship in the Mirror building. John Bryant, installed three weeks ago as editor of Mr Maxwell's *Evening News*, is also tipped. Mr Greenacre is himself now considered likely to be proprietor Lord Stevens's

choice as editor of the *Sunday Express*. Meanwhile, David Montgomery, the editor of *Today*, is considered a possible candidate for either the *Mirror* or the *Sunday Express*. Nick Gordon, the editor of *You* magazine, is thought to be one of the stronger candidates

for the *Sunday Express* job. At the Mirror building, rumour also has it that Richard Stott, the former *Daily Mirror* editor and now editor of the *People*, has been told by Mr Maxwell that he can have the *Mirror* editorship back after the planned management buyout of the *People*.

A *Mirror* chapel meeting on Monday night passed a resolution saying it was alarmed at the treatment of Mr Green-

acre, who resigned after Mr Maxwell commissioned, and then accepted, a rival TV listings magazine dummy from Peter Jackson, a former *TV Times* editor. Dummies had already been produced in-house by *Mirror* staff.

Noreen Taylor, Mr Greenacre's wife and one of the *Mirror*'s main feature writers, will remain on the tabloid, but John Diamond, the *Mirror* columnist brought in from the *Sunday Times* by Mr Greenacre, is leaving.

MELINDA WITSTOCK

Not quite free

STAFF of *Al-Morabitoun*, the newspaper started during the occupation of Kuwait and later produced weekly from London with backing from Kuwait's information ministry, want it to become a Kuwaiti national newspaper. Iraqis took or destroyed most broadcasting and printing equipment in Kuwait. However, Radio Kuwait was back on the air on Sunday, and 30,000 extra copies of the London-based newspaper *Sawt al Kuwait* were printed in Saudi Arabia and driven to Kuwait City last Friday.

Before the invasion, Kuwaiti journalists operated under government censorship, but "were still the most free media in the Gulf", according to a Kuwaiti journalist. A return to the constitution of 1962, which guarantees press freedom, has been promised, but last week, the Kuwaiti government announced three months of martial law. Before *al-Morabitoun* can print in Kuwait, it will need a licence from the information ministry.

Money worries

CHANNEL 4's decision to spend £80 million on purpose-built headquarters in London's Victoria has provoked anxiety among independent producers. "Channel 4 has either cancelled or put on ice for a year the majority of independent productions; budgets have also been cut back," says Michael Darlow, the chairman of the Independent Programme Producers Association (IPPA).

Channel 4, which relies on independents for 54 per cent of its output, says the move will save it money in the long-term because it will not be paying rent. Channel 4 turned down a chance to buy the old BSB headquarters for a fraction of the price of its new building, arguing it was too small and not linked to adequate transport routes.

Bad taste competition

ZIT, the outrageous comic launched last month to compete with *Viz*, has managed a circulation of more than 250,000 for its first issue. Circulation of *Viz*, now eight years old, is 1.1 million. ZIT's latest issue investigates "Iraqi Phobia — Coming Soon to a Country Near You".

TV watchdog

THE Campaign for Quality Television, set up two years ago to lobby for changes in the broadcasting bill, has relaunched itself as a permanent organisation aimed at ensuring that both the BBC and ITV retain a broad range of high-quality British-made programming. Chaired by Sir Denis Forman, the former Granada chairman, the campaign will monitor the programme promises made by bidders for the new Channel 3 franchises, to ensure that the winners fulfil their obligations. It also plans to campaign to ensure the BBC's funding is both independent and adequate.



Sir Denis Forman

Prognosis improves

THE demise of the *Listener*, along with the well-publicised financial woes of *New Statesman* & *Society*, elicited what may have been premature post-mortems for literary-cultural weeklies. *Punch*, which suffered a decline in sales for much of the Eighties, lifted its circulation by 5 per cent to 33,038 in the last half of 1990. As *Punch* celebrates its 150th anniversary, it hopes a big promotion campaign will help it reach the 50,000 mark by the end of this year. The *Spectator*, aided by controversial interviews, reported an 8 per cent circulation rise to 39,612 in the same period.

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Ceausescu: a regime remarkably similar to that of Saddam

Saddam will be overthrown only when his own party considers him a liability, Richard Beeston writes from Amman

Still better the devil they know, for now

To judge from the reports of his numerous enemies, it is no longer a matter of whether President Saddam Hussein will be overthrown, only of when the defeated Iraqi leader is killed or forced to flee his country into exile.

The Shia Muslim heartland of southern Iraq is in revolt, with exiled opposition leaders claiming a popular uprising sweeping north like an angry bush fire from the southern city of Basra, through the Mesopotamian heartland, towards Baghdad.

To the north, in the country's mountainous Kurdish region, similar claims are beginning to filter out from the confusion of post-war Iraq, with reports of Kurdish rebel successes against the government in the town of Sulaymaniyah near the Iranian border. To Saddam's enemies, both inside and outside the coun-

try, the news will come as the answer to decade-old prayers for the downfall of his regime.

Saddam's position does look precarious. The defiant statements of seven months have been abandoned and the regime no longer attempts to disguise its humiliating capitulation as a victory. The Iraqi military has been dismembered in only four days of fighting and the much-vaunted Republican Guard, previously his insurance policy against a coup, has been severely battered. But anyone who writes off the Iraqi leader, or confidently predicts the end of more than 20 years of Baathist rule, is seriously underestimating the cunning and ruthlessness he has frequently displayed.

Although the bulk of Saddam's military machine has been destroyed or captured, he still has a sizeable army and, more im-

portant, one of the most pervasive security police networks in existence. Tens of thousands of agents work in four main branches directly responsible to him for the control and monitoring of internal security. Their role for the past 10 years has been to eliminate potential threats to the Baath party and Saddam, a duty they have carried out with grim efficiency to the point where there are no obvious challengers inside the country who could take his place.

The coalition of exiled Iraqi opposition groups, made up of Shia fundamentalists, Kurds, communists and a number of former military officers and politicians, know this better than most, since their supporters in the country have been purged so often that they have little or no infrastructure inside Iraq to mount a credible challenge to Baathist authority.

During the Gulf war with Iran, for instance, Saddam faced the first serious challenge to his leadership when the military position on the battlefield turned against Baghdad. However, by always managing to stay one step ahead of his adversaries, he has survived at least five coup or assassination attempts.

The reports of spontaneous popular revolts across the country would seem to be substantiated by numerous eye-witness accounts, but it is unlikely that the uprising could translate into the removal of Saddam from power unless a credible alternative leadership, with backing from the military and some members of the current hierarchy, emerges.

There is no question that the Iraqi leader is feared and despised. But after ten years in power, too many Iraqis have a vested interest in seeing the continuation of his

leadership for the time being. They know that his downfall in a popular revolt would also mean their demise, in what could turn into a bloody settling of scores, with Shias and Kurds seeking revenge against their former Sunni masters.

In particular, the 100,000 members of the Baath party, who have enjoyed special privileges under Saddam's rule, would be reluctant to hasten his overthrow if they believed they would go down with him. During the run-up to the Gulf conflict, Saddam insisted there was no comparison between his rule and that of Nicolae Ceausescu, the late Romanian leader. However, any Romanians familiar with the Iraqi leader's promotion of his personality cult, his reliance on trusted family members to run key positions in government and his dictatorial style, would be astonished by the

similarities. If the two regimes are genuinely alike, then the fall of the Romanian dictator may also provide a clue to Saddam's fate.

In Romania the initial spark of unrest began with demonstrations by the minority Hungarian population of Transylvania, and spread into a popular nationwide uprising. Ceausescu was eventually overthrown, but only after members of his leadership in the Communist party and the military decided that he had become a liability.

The same process may now be unfolding in Iraq, with dissatisfied religious and ethnic groups rising up in popular demonstrations against Saddam. But his fate will only be sealed when the Baathists and the military, the very people who have helped to keep him in power, are confident that they can be replaced and that they can continue to rule Iraq.

Life after Kinnock goes

Martin Jacques

Since Mrs Thatcher resigned as prime minister, the chances of a Conservative victory in the next general election have increased, while the prospect of a Labour defeat has grown commensurately. So what would happen should Labour suffer a fourth election defeat in a row?

The implications are likely to be far-reaching. The defeat in 1979 resulted in a powerful advance by the left, and a split. The 1983 defeat heralded a successful offensive against the left, and the beginnings of modernisation, while the 1987 loss produced the policy review, and the adoption of a centrist strategy.

Much would depend on the nature of the defeat. Anything resembling a hung parliament would be greeted as a moral victory, and result in little change. A defeat on the scale of the last two elections would be a catastrophe. However, this seems unlikely. More probable is a Tory majority of about 10-60 seats. Under these circumstances Neil Kinnock would surely resign; two defeats in a row is enough for anyone.

What would the post-Kinnock era be like? Today's Labour party is characterised by little debate, and no obvious alternatives. As a result the party is unlikely to fall apart. After all, if it was able to survive the traumas of 1981-87, it should be able to overcome a relatively narrow election defeat. A section of the left might split away, but this would be of little consequence.

The most likely outcome would be a continuation of the broad contours of the Kinnock era. Present Labour discourse has two polarities. One is the traditional left-right divide. Kinnock has taken the party about as far to the right as it can go, to the point where it is virtually indistinguishable from the new-look Tory government. This has resulted in a chasm between the leadership and the bulk of the membership, who remain well to the left.

The other polarity is more recent, that between conservative and radical. Kinnock's shift to the centre has been characterised by an abandonment of old shibbo-

leths, rather than the creation of anything new. This worked, up to a point, in the late Eighties, but it will not work in future, partly because of the shift in the Tory party, and partly because the agenda has moved on. Labour needs to be more willing to take risks. One of the hallmarks of Kinnock's leadership has been its lack of intellectual self-confidence; its search for respectability rather than new solutions.

Whoever succeeds Kinnock, the new leadership is likely to be more self-confident and therefore more radical. The political agenda of the Nineties — social justice, a new collectivism, a new international order, and the problem of an overbearing American military power — is more likely to go with the grain of membership feelings than did the individualism of the Eighties.

The question remains: how radical? Another election defeat will push Labour towards electoral reform and would mean the end of its commitment to the two-party system, which has been a fundamental component of modern labourism. The party would move into new territory. For all his courage and revisionism, Kinnock is a labourist. If it were defeated again, would Labour choose a more competent version of Kinnock, like John Smith or Gordon Brown, to take them into this new era, or would it opt for a potentially post-labourist figure like Robin Cook, who is politically flexible and prepared to take risks? A more competent labourist remains the most likely choice.

The adoption of proportional representation would, in part, be shorthand for a rapprochement with the Liberal Democrats. Labour would, at last, be in the business of party alliances and coalition politics. Whether the Liberal Democrats would respond favourably is another matter. In these days of soft Toryism, Paddy Ashdown and his colleagues might be tempted to look right. But the Liberal party has historically been more anti-Tory than anti-Labour, and the carrot of proportional representation would undoubtedly be hard for them to resist.

In the high noon of Victorian optimism the historian William Lecky wrote: "There are certain virtues that are the natural product of a cultivated society." The advance of civilisation brought with it, among other blessings, the decline of cruelty. After the Somme, Hitler, Stalin, and now Saddam Hussein, we are supposed to reject such views out of hand as wildly optimistic. Cruelty to animals continues despite laws against it, as tomorrow's RSPCA annual report will no doubt show.

Yet the debate is clearly not over; many people still treat such horrific episodes as the Holocaust as aberrations, the result of a conspiracy or an evil individual. Supporters of Amnesty International, the World Council of Churches or the National Council for Civil Liberties still see themselves as part of an advancing process of civilisation; their opponents are pictured as defying the tide of history.

On an empirical level it seems easy to draw up a balance sheet of social barbarities. The abolition of judicial torture, the increasing humaneness of criminal punishment, the improvements in conditions for animals, seem to weigh down one scale decisively. But the argument really turns on what is considered admissible evidence to the contrary. What about the increasing numbers of victims of crime? Are nuclear weapons more humane than mustard gas? If our society is less authoritarian, should we balance this against the growth of a cruel subculture of drugs and violence? Are historical processes indeed leading us away from cruelty? Or is it true of cruelty, as it has been claimed to be of tolerance, societies do not grow more tolerant, they merely become intolerant of different types?

Lecky's case was not implausible. It distinguished two types of cruelty: that which springs from "callousness and brutality", and that derived from vindictiveness. The first was caused chiefly by "defective realisation": men were unable to picture the suffering of other people and "the intensity of our compassion is usually and chiefly proportioned to the vividness of our realisation".

Hence "the most frightful catastrophe in South America, an earthquake, a shipwreck, or a battle, will elicit less compassion

than the death of a single individual who has been brought prominently before our eyes.

"Wrapped in the pale winding-sheet of general terms the greatest tragedies of history evolve no vivid images in our minds, and it is only by a great effort of genius that an historian can galvanise them into life." But this would be remedied by "the strengthening of the imagination by intellectual culture". Education could be relied on to produce that "sensitive humanity with which, in proportion to their civilisation, men realise and recoil from cruelty".

The second type of cruelty was "rather a feminine attribute... usually displayed in oppressed and suffering communities, in passionate natures, and in hot climates". It was diminished by "the substitution of a penal system for private revenge", and, implied Lecky, by the ending of political oppression.

Clearly, his analysis was true of some societies and some periods, but to treat it as a universal truth was a Victorian vice, which stemmed partly from the romantic sensibility of the age, partly from a downplaying of religion, ideology

and ethnicity. "The chief cause of sectarian animosity," Lecky thought, was the "incapacity of most men to conceive hostile systems in the light in which they appear to their adherents and to enter into the enthusiasm they inspire".

Humanity has shown rather little skill in empathy, if this is the cause. A more obvious source of conflict, however, is the nature of positive beliefs. People often understand their enemies all too well. Lecky's belief that intellectual sympathy "assuages the rancour of controversy" was really an aspect of Victorian agnosticism, the wave of doubt that engulfed intellectuals like Matthew Arnold and Leslie Stephen. It had little to say to secular religions like Marxism and socialism, and less to resurgent Islam.

Equally, Lecky's rationalism gave him only a shallow understanding of the sources of vindictive cruelty within societies. His best historical work, the *History of Ireland in the 18th Century*, was constructed as a tale of English oppression, and to dismiss Irish political violence as "private revenge" was to fail to understand

the deeper roots of those practices which ensured their continuance, even in the highly policed 1990s.

Victorian Britain undoubtedly prided itself on its advancing humanity, and regarded the long and successful campaign against cruelty to animals as the model for the elimination of cruelty in other areas. Certainly there were analogies, but in the light of recent research — especially of Keith Thomas's fine book, *Man and the Natural World* — we must wonder whether the treatment of animals is less an archetypal case than a special case and an achievement from which man has benefited little.

When animals were formally disregarded as incapable of reason, men suffered more who were deficient in reason or culture, being described as "brutish". If slaves or the Irish fared badly at the hands of a culture that mistreated its horses and was addicted to hunting, they did not do that much better from the 18th century onwards, when the English developed a cult of sensibility. Moralists had traditionally condemned cruelty to animals because it brutalised men, not for

the pain it caused the animals, and the "man of feeling" similarly related everything to its impact on the observer, not the victim.

"They which love beasts in a high measure have so much less charity to men," Edward Toppell wrote in 1607, and this became steadily more true as the 19th century cult of sensibility developed. Kindness to animals could be a way of reviving the cruelty of men, rather than a way of including both within a common benevolence. Criticism of hunting in the early 19th century was part of an attack on the aristocratic hegemony, and the "malicious wounding" of the game's horses, dogs or deer was part of the same phenomenon of social protest.

Even today hunt saboteurs are motivated by class hatred of the huntmen more than pity for the fox, and animal rights campaigners seem to harass scientists and technicians as the agents of Western capitalism, not as cruel individuals. If genuine altruism is this hard to find, it should surprise us less if cruelty is so good at devising new forms.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

As beastly as before?

On the eve of the RSPCA annual report, Jonathan Clark asks why advancing civilisation has not seen the end of man's cruelty



Sport with animals: Bearbaiting, from *Town and Country* magazine, 1793

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The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

I have recently paid a visit to a home for distressed Gulf commentators. Some might find this a harrowing experience, inappropriate for a light-hearted column, but if some good can come out of it, if one or two readers find themselves moved by what I write, then the sacrifice of the odd titbit will have been worth it.

Since President Bush ended the war in the Gulf so abruptly last Thursday morning, we have all been witness to the secret tragedy of commentators cut off in mid-sentence, left to wander empty studios or to tap out fierce, incisive columns never to be printed. At least, under the aegis of the International Red Cross, something has been done to help them. Last weekend, on my visit to the Home for Distressed Gulf Commentators at Camberley, Surrey, the first of its kind anywhere in the world, I was a witness to their plight.

I arrived early, the dew sparkling on the lawns, the fitter inmates sitting outside, their wheelchairs glistening in the morning sun, one or two pushing model tanks over makeshift maps of Kuwait with their walking sticks. Above the twitter of birds I could hear the unmistakable chirrup — "Ourlads, Ourlads, Ourlads" — of tabloid leader-writers as the dedicated nurses gave them their sedatives for the day.

Taking a deep breath I walked down the long drive, taking care not to be caught staring at any of the bizarre sights that surrounded me. I averted my eyes,

for instance, as I passed a man I immediately recognised from his distraught hair and mad, vacant eyes as "The Voice of Common Sense" on the *Daily Echo*. He kept repeating "Let's show 'em, let's show 'em", until a doctor arrived with his pills.

I also pretended not to notice an elderly figure, a retired general, standing in a bed of daffodils, thrusting a stick diffidently and thither, desperately trying to explain exactly how the daffodils intended to surround and attack a neighbouring bed of snowdrops. The previous Tuesday I had seen that same retired general holding forth on *Newsnight*; now, only a few days later, not a soul was listening. Thank goodness, then, that he had the consolation of knowing that the snowdrops almost certainly could not hold out for more than 48 hours.

I was greeted at the front door by a doctor and a psychiatrist. They set about explaining the aims of the home. "You must remember that these poor folk had just got into the swing of making their predictions on the war," said the psychiatrist. "The cameras were on them, the newspapers listened to their every word. Then — *pluff* — it all came to a halt. They must now experience a period of great anguish before they can readjust to everyday life."

We arrived at a door marked "The Pilger Wing". In the main ward a handful of leading commentators from the *New Statesman* and the *London*

Review of Books covered in their straitjackets, mumbling incoherently: "Imperialist war... America's iron heel... Set to last well into autumn... Sanctions given no time... Commercial interests... Literally millions set to die."

The doctor explained: "Some of them will never go over. And that bloke over there," he pointed to a spindly figure cowering in the corner — "he used to be an international statesman." On closer inspection I realised we were looking at the emaciated face of Mr Denis Healey.

Finally, I was allowed to glimpse the home's rehabilitation wing for television and radio presenters. Here, in a calm and soothing environment, anchor-men and anchorwomen from all parts of the British media are able to go about finding some form of fulfilment. "These two have made real progress," explained the doctor, pointing to a couple playing a gentle game of catch. As the ball was chucked back and forth, 25 anchor-men looked on, all of them shouting questions. "Could I ask you whether I am right in thinking that the ball could cause great damage if dropped?" "If the ball were to fly through the window, who would pay for the new glass?" "Are you really suggesting that this game could end without wholesale destruction?"

As you see, these poor fellows still have a long way to go, and I would urge all readers to contribute generously to this important cause.

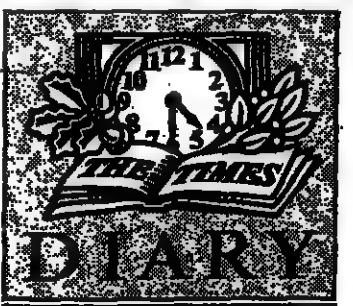
Party to the triumph

Oblivious to Western concerns about triumphalism, the Kuwaitis have invited John Major, George Bush and other allied leaders to a "liberation show" in Kuwait City next month. Mrs Thatcher has also been invited, as has General Norman Schwarzkopf, in what promises to be a no-holds-barred celebration of the defeat of Iraq.

Creative Concerns, the London-based firm which organised the Docklands laser extravaganza with Jean-Michel Jarre, was approached some months ago by the Kuwaiti government in exile to organise a pop concert after the war had ended. However, once the extent of the victory became apparent, the Kuwaitis escalated their plans into something far grander. The extravaganza has been allocated a budget of £1 million and the firm is flying out a staff of 100 to stage the show.

Celebrities from the world of opera and classical music are being invited to take part, and plans being discussed include a laser show, accompanied by a narrative of the battle for Kuwait, with a highly stirring martial music, to be relayed around the devastated city. About two tonnes of explosives are also being shipped to Kuwait for a spectacular fireworks display.

The proposals were shown to the ruling al-Sabah family within days of the ceasefire, and the British ministry of defence has also been consulted. Formal invitations are expected to go to Western leaders this week. Despite misgivings in some quarters about the tone of the event, allied leaders will find it almost impossible to refuse an invitation which the Kuwaitis see as a "thank you" gift to their liberators.



● The hapless official who introduced Mrs Thatcher as "the prime minister" at Monday night's annual meeting of her Finchley Conservative Association is not the only one who still has difficulty adjusting to her new role. Don't worry, she told him on her visit to California for Ronald Reagan's 80th birthday celebrations last month, even Dan Quayle, the American vice-president, seemed to think she was still at No 10.

Wicket loss

Cricket could be about to disappear from the curriculum at John Major's old school. The news is certain to distress the cricket-loving prime minister who, as president of the Surrey youth cricket appeal last year, has put much time and energy into encouraging the game at junior level. Tony Mooney, the headmaster of Rushin school in Merton, which has produced three county players for Surrey in the past decade, says: "We used to have a groundman, but since the maintenance has been put in the hands of the local authority, the pitches have declined rapidly."

Mooney has been forced to cancel the school's most prestigious fixtures. "Good sides will not play on substandard pitches and Surrey Young Cricketers have cancelled their annual fixture against us." The school has now consulted the groundman from the nearby

Mincham cricket club. "He says the situation is not irretrievable, but it is serious. Unless we raise about £3,000 this year to sort out the pitches, cricket could vanish."

Ingrained honesty

Along with all the military hardware and personnel returning soon from the Gulf, there could be an order for several crates of Kuwaiti sand. An Edinburgh firm specialising in commemorative trinkets had the foresight to import several pounds of the sand before the war began. It is now selling the grains, set in resin in a bone china "liberation trinket" at £10.95 each.

Fearing that the trinkets could sell out, the company denies that

What's a few

thimblefuls of sand, you said.

It might stock up at a Scottish beach. "It's the sand our soldiers and allies were fighting over. We shall send to the Gulf for some more," says a spokesman. Or ask returning servicemen to empty their shoes and socks carefully.

High teas

One hundred days after Mrs Thatcher left office, consensus politics has been firmly re-established. Labour MPs are being showered with invitations to take tea with cabinet ministers. Keith Vaz, the MP for

Leicester East, says that in the past week he has received invitations from Michael Heseltine and Michael Howard, the employment secretary. "Heseltine's office told me that the secretary of state thought it would be nice to meet backbench Labour MPs with views on environmental issues."

Such an invitation would have been unthinkable in the days of Nicholas Ridley. Vaz, who accepted the invitation from Howard, but had to turn down Heseltine, says: "It's a marked difference, not only to Mrs Thatcher's time, but also to the attitude of some of our own frontbench colleagues." He has also been invited to meet John Major, to discuss compensation for nuclear test veterans. So far, he has not had an opportunity to discuss the veterans with Neil Kinnock, his party leader. "I'm still waiting," says Vaz.

Edited memory

Sir Kingsley Amis's acrid memoirs have prompted predictable squeals and denials from his victims, but he surely did not expect a correction from his own son. Nevertheless, Martin Amis, the novelist, admitted yesterday that his father had not told the whole story about an incident in which Tom Driberg, the Labour politician, took a fancy to Amis junior. Driberg confided his interest to Christopher Hitchens, a journalist, and suggested a lunchtime assignation. "You'd be wasting your time," said Amis senior. "End of scene," say the memoirs.

However, Martin Amis, who confesses he has not yet finished reading his father's controversial recollections, says Driberg made one final bid to seduce him. "One night at his flat he lunged at me. I ducked under his arm and he chased me around the table. He never caught me."



FORGING PEACE

As James Baker, the American secretary of state, embarks on a ten-day tour of the Middle East tomorrow, American prestige among Arab leaders has never been higher. He will be tempted therefore to embark on high-pressure American diplomacy designed to force the emergence of a new Middle Eastern order from the wreckage of war. But Mr Baker knows that any Western peace plan, however benign, risks reawakening Arab distrust and Israeli suspicions. Washington must therefore coax ideas out of the states concerned rather than imposing its own blueprint. The onus must be on Israel and the Arab states to show a new flexibility. Hence Mr Baker's insistence that the coalition forged to defeat Iraq has mileage left in it and should remain in being to forge the peace.

Peace involves four elements: a new regional security system for the Gulf; regional economic co-operation matching the wealth of the six oil exporters in the Gulf Co-operation Council with the manpower of impoverished Egypt and Syria; arms control, with special emphasis on ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction; and a durable Arab-Israeli settlement.

The security framework, the subject of much discussion before and during the allied offensive, is well launched. But without progress on the other fronts, the security pact being discussed in Damascus could eventually become a force for renewed instability. Adherence is open to all Arab states and Syria has made no secret of its hopes that the accord could become a springboard for joint Arab action. The target would, as ever, be Israel. Nor would economic co-operation necessarily breed stability, if it took the traditional form of cash handouts by the oil exporters to buy off discontent in the souks of Cairo. Ways must be found to link investment and aid to desperately needed economic reforms.

Arms control should begin now. Sensitive foreign technology needs to be denied to the region, but the Middle East will continue to be the world's premier arms bazaar until

Israel is brought into the balance. And that implies an Arab-Israeli settlement which would require on the one side, Arab recognition of Israel's legal existence and on the other, Israeli acceptance of the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Mr Baker has been here before, retiring hurt only a year ago. But this time, he starts with considerable assets. Although the Arab world is badly split, the traditional arbiters of Middle East politics are in the allied camp. Iraq's aggression has compelled Arab governments to follow their real national interests, stripping away years of pretence that all would be perfect harmony but for Israel's existence. While the Arabs in the coalition continue to support "the Palestinian cause", they are disenchanted with Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation. Egypt and Saudi Arabia (which might well press Jordan to help to circumvent the PLO) want to move rapidly.

As for Israel, the reach of Iraq's Scud missiles has begun to alter the debate about security. A land-for-peace deal — albeit not within the 1967 borders — now looks a more attractive proposition. Any such deal would have to be guaranteed internationally, but, after the war, an American guarantee now looks more credible.

Mr Baker must explore, but explore aggressively. He should resist calls for formal frameworks at this stage, whether a Helsinki-style Middle East conference on peace and security, as favoured by Italy or a full-blown international peace conference. They may have a place, but later. The peace process could easily become bogged down in the rival rhetorics of the Middle Eastern participants. America's job, with the support of her allies, is to cut through the hypocrisies and evasions of the diplomatic process, as the allies' troops cut through Iraq's defences.

Mr Baker is an instinctive conciliator. He rides a wind for change in the Middle East unparalleled since Israel's creation. The Europeans, who tend to exaggerate their influence in the Middle East, must give him unstinting support.

FREEING THE PHONES

Despite the ideological fervour with which successive privatisations have been carried out, industries have been opened up more to the fresh air of the private sector than to the chill winds of competition. Public utilities have, on the whole, been transformed into private monopolies or near-monopolies, and consumers have felt as exploited and aggrieved as ever. Privatisation is a necessary condition for greater efficiency. But, even combined with strong regulation, it has not proved a sufficient condition. The opportunities for the utilities to cook a snook at the regulators are endless, as British Gas is proving in its current unseemly attempts to thwart Ofgas. There is no substitute for competition.

British Telecom faces competition only from Mercury, which has proved no more than an irritant. Seven years after privatisation, BT controls 95 per cent of the market. The result is predictable: a National Utility Services survey, published yesterday, showed that local telephone calls are more expensive in Britain than in any other major industrialised country.

At last, the government has responded to its radical critics. Under the proposals in its white paper, published yesterday, telecommunications are to be opened to unfettered competition. At the same time, BT will be forced to cut its prices more sharply in real terms than hitherto. In the short term, international calls will cost 10 per cent less.

The price of other calls can rise by no more than the inflation rate less 6 1/4 per cent. This may mean no price rises this year. Those who use their phone only rarely will

have the benefit of 30 free call units a quarter. Deregulation of telecommunications in America has led to a plethora of companies competing fiercely to offer a profusion of price and service deals to the consumer. Americans are delighted no longer to be under the thumb of American Telephone & Telegraph, BT's counterpart. Britain will not attain such a state instantly. Regulation will continue to be needed while BT dominates the market. Even with an open market, BT can be expected still to dominate telecommunications for decades to come. Capital investment in telecommunications is, both fearfully expensive and slow. BT has had an unfair head start.

Moreover, even in the long term, a social service element will remain, requiring intervention. The free market will never provide working public telephone boxes in the Western Isles. The free market may seek to impose high fixed costs on customers just for having a phone installed, so deterring some who need them for emergencies only. But the focus in plans for more efficient communications must be on competition and the price mechanism.

What if BT continues to exploit its position? In a few years' time, the government would do well to look again across the Atlantic. There, AT&T having had a total monopoly, the market was first opened to competition on long-distance calls. The new entrants accused the giant of unfair practices and predatory pricing. Eventually it was broken up into eight parts. If BT does not behave, it will merit the same fate.

HERESIES AND PHARISEES

Dr George Carey's appointment as Archbishop of Canterbury has begun with a good measure of *odium theologicum*. One or two of the 35 members of the Canterbury chapter have even considered protesting at his views today by defying the royal warrant "permitting" them to elect him — which in effect tells them how to vote. But Dr Carey knows his democratic credentials do not depend on the proceedings of the chapter, which even the most sober churchmen cheerfully describe as a "rigged election".

He was one of two choices made by the Crown Appointments Commission, a body largely elected by the church, and the choice of the prime minister, who is answerable to the secular electorate. It is too soon to say whether those unruly choices were wise ones, though evidently not too soon, as our correspondence columns have amply demonstrated, to begin airing the point.

Dr Carey, meanwhile, is in America, blithely fulfilling private teaching engagements. His self-imposed period of purdah between his nomination on July 25 last year and his enthronement next April 19 is partly to blame for the controversy which is marring his elevation. Because Dr Carey has allowed himself to say so little, more than normal attention is guaranteed for anything he does say. The purdah, presumably a precaution against rows before he was duly installed and fully in charge, has had the opposite effect.

Episcopal press advisers really should learn about publication dates. A half-forgotten interview given three months before to *Reader's Digest*, for instance, exploded in Dr Carey's face when it appeared a week ago. Had he made a dozen speeches and given a crop of interviews in the meantime, all the nuances of his position on the issues of the day, women priests

particularly, would be out by now. Instead he starts with the ill-chosen word "heresy" hanging round his neck, and his substitution of "theological error" will not remove it.

"Fire and forge" is a good principle for missiles, a bad one for archbishops. Dr Robert Runcie made the same mistake when he gave his famous "pharisee" interview to the *Director* magazine in 1989. It was published, with a hint of spin in an anti-Thatcher direction, just when Dr Runcie wanted all eyes on his visit to the Pope that October. In any case heresy and pharisees were both words which ought to have been blue-pencilled when the proofs of the interviews were shown to Lambeth Palace. Dr Runcie's derogatory reference to the pharisees gave just as much unintended offence to the Jewish community as the former word has now given to Anglo-Catholics.

No politician would allow himself so little control over the publication date of such interviews. Dr Carey may object that he is not a politician but a pastor of souls. But Matthew 10:16 is a necessary text for a modern church leader: "Be ye therefore wise as serpents..." Time and again Dr Runcie allowed himself to be outmanoeuvred by the news management techniques of his political critics. Worldly innocence may count towards salvation in the next world, but it merely heaps coals on an archiepiscopal head in this one.

Dr Carey, who changes from Archbishop of Canterbury-designate to Archbishop of Canterbury-elect today, would have done better if he had disregarded all these archaic steps up to the Throne of Augustine. At least from the end of January when Dr Runcie retired, and especially with Britain at war, he should have been acting as if he were Archbishop of Canterbury — proper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Mixed feelings about Gulf war thanksgiving service

From Mr John Gummer, MP for Suffolk Coastal (Conservative)

Sir, I am surprised at the phrase in your leader (March 4), "It (the service of thanksgiving) should be as symmetrical as possible to avoid excluding members of non-Christian faiths". Ecumenical is a word usually applied to that which is acceptable to differing denominations of Christians. It cannot reasonably be suggested that one can have a service which has any meaning for Christians if it is in a form so unspecific as not to be essentially Christian. If Jesus Christ is God then the revelation of the Gospels is unique and unparalleled. If he is not, then we Christians are, as St Paul said, the most miserable of men.

Most Christians wish to thank God for the defeat of evil in the Gulf, we wish to pray for reconciliation, and to ask for Jesus' mercy upon the dead and their families. In a Christian country we must be allowed to do that simple but essential duty according to the forms and ceremonies of the Christian church. At the same time we need to be tolerant and open enough to allow those who do not share our beliefs to mourn the dead in their own way.

Everyone can therefore be involved in a common prayer and worshiping ceremony. It will be natural for church leaders to lead a Christian nation in prayer thereafter and for those of other faiths to commemorate the success of this battle against evil in their own religious environment.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GUMMER,
House of Commons,
March 4.

From Mr Adrian Fort
Sir, General de Billiere's call for the ending of church leaders' (report, March 1) still, I fear, falls on deaf ears. A fine victory for British arms and the tumbling of a Third World aggressor do not accord with the spirit of the modern Church of England. The rejoicing in the village pub will find no echo in the synod chamber.

Is it pastor or flock that is out of step? Perhaps the rows of empty pews (report, March 2) suggest the answer.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN FORT,
55 Elms Road, SW4,
March 2.

From Mrs D. M. White
Sir, I am appalled at the suggestion of a thanksgiving service. A service

of atonement in which we all, of whatever faith, humbly acknowledge our guilt in the terrible slaughter and offer our resolve to make amends for the future would be more to the point.

How can we in the West give thanks when our troops are coming home leaving devastation and bereavement on such a scale behind them?

All right; this was in response to the brutality and stupidity of the Iraqi regime, but the West played its part in building up that regime, and I cannot believe that using total air superiority as it was used in the last days of the war over Baghdad and on the fleeing troops was necessary or justified. I am ashamed.

Yours sincerely,
DOROTHY WHITE,
217 Hampstead Way, NW11,
March 3.

From Mrs Dawn Lowe-Watson
Sir, The Bishop of Durham has said (report, March 4) that celebrations of Allied victory in the Gulf would be obscene. Would not the alternative have been far more obscene? All thinking, feeling people must be suffering today for the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people alike, but empathy hardly precludes gratitude, a lack of which would indeed be an obscenity.

Very truly,
DAWN LOWE-WATSON,
Wickham House,
81 High Street,
Hurstpierpoint, Sussex,
March 4.

From Mrs Tilly Marshall
Sir, Having listened to the Bishop of Durham's diatribe in the cause of peace on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday* programme I can bring to mind no member of the armed services who has sounded off during the Gulf conflict in so militant a manner.

Your excellent leader today refers to soldiers being the first to accept that they were "only doing a job of work". That is true enough. But we must accept that the job of the armed services is very different from that of civilians inasmuch as it entails an unending discipline. Ceremonials, parades, medals and thanksgivings have their purpose in a reminder to the serviceman that he is a serviceman, and as such there are disciplines expected of him which we civilians would find insupportable.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
TILLY MARSHALL,
Riverside Cottage, Swinbrook,
Burford, Oxfordshire,
March 4.

Divorce and church

From the Very Reverend E. L. Harkness

Sir, Mr Moiser in his letter (February 16) concerning the ongoing debate raised by Clifford Longley's article ("Making sense of divorce", February 9) claims that the churches have never pursued the views of marriage found in St Matthew 19 or 1 Corinthians 7:15.

The Catholic Church does refer to these two types of marriages in her practice. The first, in Matthew, is a marriage in which God joins the two together in marriage. This involves two baptised persons who form the sacrament. Such a marriage can never be dissolved in Catholic discipline but it can be examined for possible nullity of the sacrament.

The second type to which Paul refers involves the marriage between a baptised and non-baptised person. This is considered a natural bond marriage and not a sacrament. It can, therefore, be dissolved if certain conditions are present. It is classically referred to as "the Pauline Privilege".

Yours faithfully,
EUGENE HARKNESS,
Sacred Heart Catholic Parish,
4 Norwich Road,
North Walsham,
Norfolk.

Early cremations

From Mr Stephen White

Sir, Alan Fooks writes (February 23) that in 1885 there were no cremations in Britain. In fact in that year three lawful cremations took place at Woking, Surrey. Moreover in 1882 there had been two and in 1883 one at Manston in Dorset and in 1884 there was one at Llantrisant near Cardiff.

There were of course several other unlawful cremations at the time, usually associated with infanticide.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WHITE,
University of Wales,
Cardiff Law School,
PO Box 427,
Cardiff CF1 1XD,
February 23.

IQ and nutrients

From Professor John Yudkin

Sir, The research on the relationship between nutrient supplements and IQ referred to by Thomson Prentice (February 28) is not simply an assertion by a group of well-known scientists.

Professor David Naismith of King's College says that such supplements do not improve children's intelligence scores. This statement is based on some work done by Professor Naismith and his colleagues who also gave vitamin and mineral supplements to children, with negative results.

What in fact Professor Naismith's

Belgians' war effort

From the Ambassador of Belgium

Sir, Your readers will not need to be told that the Belgian government is delighted by the allied victory in the Gulf. However, in view of unfavourable comment on the Belgian contribution to the war effort published in the British press during the conflict, I should like to bring some facts to your attention.

Early in the crisis, on August 13, 1990, Belgium sent four warships to the Gulf, including a frigate, to implement the naval embargo declared by the UN Security Council, placing them under the Western European Union co-ordination authority. On January 2, 1991, in accordance with a Nato decision, 18 Belgian Mirage fighters were sent to Diyarbakir air base in Turkey.

In addition, Belgium provided the UK, France and The Netherlands with air transport facilities and the UK with a field pipeline and 2,800 field beds. A 48-strong team was sent to work in a British medical facility in Cyprus, and transportation was and remains on offer for evacuation of British troops; hos-

Smoking ban

From Mr Norman Cohen

Sir, Mr Graham Chisney (February 22) welcomes the smoking ban on London buses, but I cannot agree with his view of the damage caused by bus exhausts. Diesel engines emit less carbon dioxide than petrol engines and substantially less smoke per passenger mile than cars. Nationally, buses and coaches account for only 0.7 per cent of airborne pollution, against 56.8 per cent for petrol vehicles.

Our buses are well maintained, use a grade of fuel which exceeds legal requirements and are subject to random inspections by the Department of Transport. New engines are being installed which conform to the highest emission standards and older engines are modified during reconditioning wherever possible.

Yours sincerely,
N. COHEN (Operations Director),
London Buses Limited,
172 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,
February 22.

group have demonstrated is that a supplement of a particular composition, administered for one month, does not have this effect. Our research has shown that a different supplement, administered for four months, does increase IQ. Not every white pill you buy at the chemist will relieve a headache.

Even more unwarranted is the statement from the Medical Research Council that what we know about nutrition rules out the possibility that nutrient supple-

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

From Mr Jonathan Shine

Sir, Let us welcome our soldiers and give thanks to them and their families and of course to God for sparing so many of our loved ones. Let us celebrate the clear triumph over evil by very brave men and women.

Faithfully yours,
JONATHAN SHINE,
Manchester University,
Faculty of Economics,
Dover Street,
Manchester M15,
March 4.

From Mrs Gillian Gaisford

Sir, I read your *Diastir* (February 27) on the Church of England's discreet "self-imposed ban on martial-sounding songs of praise" since the start of the conflict with some amusement.

Last Sunday's *Songs of Praise* on BBC Television from Andover showed us a congregation of service families singing, "Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son"; a line in a subsequent verse runs, "Bring us safe through Jordan". Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN GAISFORD,
2 Lovat Drive, Knutsford, Cheshire,
March 1.

From Mrs Barbara Vaughan

Sir, In all the media preoccupation with the Gulf war there was an outstanding contribution in the special *Songs of Praise* programmes on several Sunday evenings during the weeks of war. The presenters reflected the sombre mood of the nation yet introduced hymns with uplifting tunes and hopeful words. The devotions sung as a background to readings given by the wives and mothers of servicemen were particularly moving. May I say that "religion" got it right this time? Yours faithfully,
BARBARA VAUGHAN,
52 Brook Hill,
Woodstock, Oxford,
March 1.

From Mr Jonathan Prichard

Sir, Judged by the various reports we have received from Iraq, it would be of no surprise to hear that Saddam Hussein intended to hold a victory parade in Baghdad.

Perhaps Mr Major and Mr King might like to arrange that any proposed parade organised for London could be held on the same day. Both would then be equally distasteful. Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN PRICHARD,
10 Kennington Park Place, SE11,
March 4.

From Mr J. W. Richards

Sir, Is it not incongruous that the developer of the Mappin & Webb site and the chairman of the Arts Council are one and the same person? And that Save Britain's Heritage will bear the legal costs of £150,000 from their funds designed to prevent philistine destruction of this nature?

I am, Sir, your disillusioned servant,
J. W. RICHARDS,
17 Palace Gate, W8,
March 2.

From Mr Michael Hunter

Sir, You report Lord Bridge as saying that "the public controversy over the [Poultry] case arose from differences of opinion about traditional and contemporary architectural styles". With respect, this misses the chief point at issue, which is that the Mappin & Webb building and the seven other listed buildings which will now be demolished have formed part of the historic heart of the City for over a century.

There should be a presumption in favour of the retention of such buildings, regardless of aesthetic arguments over their stylistic merits compared with a new structure. There is plenty of opportunity for James Stirling to employ his talents on sites where no such destruction is involved.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HUNTER,
59 Oakley Square, NW1.

From Mr Arthur C. Allen

Sir, The Prince of Wales's comparison of the proposed "modern and monumental" building in the City with a 1930s wireless is quite unfair to the designers of 1930s wireless sets.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR C. ALLEN,
84 Langhorne Road,
Dagenham, Essex,
March 1.

From Mr N. W. Hudson

Sir, There can only be one name for James Stirling's building — Lego House.

Yours faithfully,
N. W. HUDSON,
31 Station Road,
Amphill, Bedfordshire,
March 2.

Lords ruling on No 1 Poultry

From Mr Philip Strickland

Sir, Now that five lords have granted another lord the fulfilment of a 30-year crusade to rid the City of London of a significant cornerstone of English history (report and Law Report, March 1; leading article, March 2) I wonder who exists that will speak for the preservation of our heritage henceforth.

The grounds argued for the demolition of No 1 Poultry and adjacent buildings were, at best, based largely upon subjective interpretation of what is "good" or "bad" in architectural terms. Throughout this long saga we have seen architect vie with architect, with hardly an utterance about aesthetic or public concern. The trouble with historic buildings is not that it was someone else's idea from another age, governed by different ideals, which produced the structure, but that it was someone else's profit.

I gain little consolation from the knowledge that in no more than 100 years from now No 1 Poultry will again be swept away because the indifferent, tasteless architecture of the 1990s will not bear comparison with the views of the then owner-crusader.

It is after all by this process that we have come to produce not one city in England which can compare with the magnificent and visionary cities of continental Europe.

Yours faithfully,
P. H. STRICKLAND,
135 High Street,
Riseley, Bedfordshire,
March 2.

From Lord Killearn

Sir, Lord Palumbo's proposed new block may not be so beautiful that it will be admired for all time. It is certainly preferable to the present mediocre Victorian Gothic edifice; and, as such, it may be a boon to the present and next few generations of City dwellers and daily visitors.

Think of the many superb houses of the Tudor, Jacobean and Georgian periods which were built by our forefathers to replace perfectly worthy, but not outstanding, buildings of earlier periods. Today, we have a strange belief that what is older must be better; often, it may be — but equally often, not! We should not be prissy about such things.

Yours faithfully,
KILLEARN,
House of Lords,
March 2.

From Mr J. W. Richards

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Yours faithfully,
N. W. HUDSON,
31 Station Road,
Amphill, Bedfordshire,
March 2.

Little sir echo

From Mr C. L. Kirck

Sir, How does one deal with those who habitually join in the second half of one's own sentences?

Should they be asked politely to desist? Alternatively, should one do the same to them, or give the second half of the sentence a sudden, unexpected twist to frustrate the tormentor?

Yours faithfully,
C. L. KIRCK (Headmaster),
Avalon School, Caldry Road,
West Kirby,
Wirral, Merseyside,
February 28.

NOTICES

[illegible]


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**THE EX-KING
AND QUEEN OF
THE FRENCH**

The ex-King and Queen of the French arrived at the Croydon Station at 15 minutes past 12 on Saturday morning from Newhaven, whence they had travelled in a special train provided for them by the Directors of the Brighton Railway. We subjoin some additional particulars of the ex-King's arrival and conduct at Newhaven, which will be found interesting:

The King, Queen, and a few attendants landed on the pier from the Southampton steamer, the *Espresso*, and were received by some of the Customs' officers who conducted them to the Bridge inn about 12 o'clock. The whole of the rooms there were engaged early in the morning for some refugees; but the proprietors scarcely expected the honour of Royalty coming to them. The news soon spread that the King had at last safely gained the shores of England; but to the credit of the inhabitants of Newhaven, no mob raised tumultuous shouts or noisy greetings. The Deputy-Consul, Mr. Cole, soon waited upon their ex-Majesties, and the King expressed his anxious desire to communicate this arrival to Buckingham Palace. Accordingly, having written a letter to the Queen, it was despatched to Mr. Iron, the secretary of the Steamboat Company at Newhaven, who immediately set off for Lewes to proceed to London. On Mr. Iron's departure, it being thought proper to formally congratulate their Majesties

his heart), and I thank you very much. But here are only two cards, and there are three of you, and I wish to take care of them all three, as containing the names of the kind friends, the first to welcome me to Newhaven and to England; where is the other?" Colonel Roumigny accordingly gave the other card, which happened to be that of the restor of Newhaven, to His Majesty. "Mr. Smith," exclaimed the King, after identifying the individuals with their names; "that is curious indeed! and very remarkable that the first to welcome me should be a Mr. Smith, since the assumed name was Smith by which I escaped from France; and look, this is my passport made out in the name of William Smith!"

About half-past 2 o'clock, knowing the distress the Queen must be in from having no luggage, Mrs. Elphick, accompanied by her sister, Miss F. Gray, proceeded to the inn with a chest of linen and toilet necessaries, to offer for Her Majesty's use. Having sent in their cards and explained the object of the visit to the Queen's attendants, Her Majesty immediately desired them to enter that she might return her thanks. After condescending with Her Majesty Mrs. Elphick begged Her Majesty to make use of the contents of the box she had brought; but Her Majesty, with tears distinctly, yet most thankfully, declined the kindness. "*Vous êtes trop bonnes*," she said, "*mais j'ai acheté des habits*."

[illegible][illegible]

and if the said date is on or after 1st April 1998 then this paragraph shall come into effect.

January 1991 /s/	No of Premises	Aggregate power demand	Energy (GWh) to be supplied
1. Power Demand (A) Not exceeding 0.1 MW but (B) Exceeding 0.1 MW but not exceeding 1.0 MW	None	None	

2. A description of the system of electric lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plant and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned by or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant.

Any premises in the areas identified in paragraph 6 will be supplied under the separate system of electric lines and electrical plant owned by the relevant Public Electricity Supply Company, the National Grid Company plc or an authorised electricity operator.

5. A statement of the extent (if any) to which the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land, etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) in the Act to be given through the licence for which he is applying.

delivered to us at
with above, no later
on the business
12 noon, Monday
which they claim to
the claim has been
under the provisions
insolvency Rules
renounced with the
which the creditor
on his behalf.
of
1991
THE WILMOTTS
FUTURE RECEIVERS
NEWLY PLACED
PROSECUTORS
NO LIBERTY
FUTURE RECEIVERSHIP
RECEIVER GIVEN
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or
Creative Receiver

Registration for the use of a LAMARCA registration and are available for inspection by the
public between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on any working day.

D H Williams
Company Secretary

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2425

ACROSS

- Ornithologist's tent (4)
- Game period (4)
- Imagine (5)
- Investment group (9)
- Den (4)
- In that place (3)
- Professorship (5)
- Dimmy deer (5)
- Wooden dishes (5)
- Journal (5)
- Burge (5)
- Seethe (4)
- Fire example (9)
- Non-rigid airship (5)
- Following (4)
- Pierce (4)

DOWN

- Destroy large part (8)
- RN ship title (1,1,1)
- Hazard (6)
- Elsewhere (4)
- Revealing mistake (8,4)
- Prepared food shop (12)
- Sea float (8)
- Nave wing (8)
- "Tulip" tree (8)
- Customer (6)
- Bamboo (4)
- Racole (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 2424

ACROSS: 1 Before 4 Topic 8 Word processor 9 Reading 10 Surf 11 Hunt
13 Ice 14 Home 17 Del 20 Lope 22 Look-see 24 Unquestioning
25 Eleg 26 Afraid

DOWN: 1 Byword 2 Forbade 3 Repaired 4 Then 5 Paste 6 Carafin
7 Tough 12 Throw off 13 Miggins 16 Clause 18 Blitz 19 Begged
21 Figue 23 Levy

ACROSS

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 7 Imagine (5)
 9 Investment group (9)
 10 Den (4)
 11 In that place (5)
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 15 Wooden dishes (5)
 17 Journal (5)
 18 Surge (5)
 20 Seethe (4)
 21 Fine example (9)
 23 Non-rigid airship (5)
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Shedding light on the shadow

The postponement of a museum exhibition dedicated to death has highlighted our continuing squeamishness about the one thing in life that comes to us all. Libby Purves reports

A contumacious debate is arising over the decision to postpone — perhaps for two years — an ambitious exhibition of funerary art. Later this month, the Victoria & Albert Museum should have been a-glitter with coffin-plates, sombre with black velvet and nodding with plumes as it launched "The Art of Death", three years in the preparation. The decision to postpone was taken when the nation feared high allied casualties in the Gulf war. Was it, is it, a wimp's reaction? Is it tactful or cowardly to avoid mentioning death in dangerous times? Would they have cancelled it for one of the more common tragedies of peacetime, such as Bradford or King's Cross? Together with the argument as to whether the Gulf victory parade should be a sad memorial or an all stops-out celebration, it touches on one of the great awkwardnesses of our time: how to respond to death.

There may be some help at hand. Definitely coming out this month is a study of the English funeral in the past 500 years, *The English Way of Death* (Robert Hale, price £18.95), by Julian Litten (who, coincidentally, also works at the V&A as the curator of administration). He has no doubt at all about his book's appropriateness: even had the ground war proved disastrous, he would have wanted it published. "Dying is the only event guaranteed to happen to all of us," he says robustly. "What I have done is a study of how we, as a nation, have coped with it from 1430 onwards." There is nothing disrespectful about studying funerals, he says: rather the contrary. He points out that one can learn from earlier conflicts, too: "It was the first world war which actually marked the end of the grand Victorian funeral. After all, how unseemly to put on a great show of plumes and black velvet and crests for your old granny, when the woman down the street was never going to get her boy's body home and knew she would not be able to visit his grave for years. With so much sadness and death around, ostentation had to decline."

A preternaturally pale, slight, forthright becheur with a watch-chain. High Anglican enthusiasms and a lifetime's hobby of studying funeral furnishings, Mr Litten does seem at first sight to be an

invention of Sir John Betjeman in some mischievous mood. But one rapidly absolves him from any charge of posing. He loves the reason that he specialises in ecclesiastical architecture: he is fascinated by the point of contact between human life and eternity, and with society's aesthetic response to each. A 15th century memorial brass and the Mosaic in a modern crematorium are both, in their way, attempts to make sense of the mystery of death. His insights into human nature are considerable. After all, every fable, from 17th century morbidity to Victorian materialism and the stoicism of the world wars, is

"There is no excuse for a crematorium looking like the waiting-room of some appalling private hospital"

shown up in the way the dead are treated, what they are wrapped in, how they are labelled and laid to rest. Someone had to document it all: in Mr Litten the subject has found a sober, amused, sympathetic interpreter.

From childhood, he was passionate about ecclesiastical architecture (not so odd: before video games, remember, middle-class children cycled around doing brass-rubbings for pleasure). Leaving a north London polytechnic, he talked himself into a job at the V&A when he was 18. Funerals had made an impression on him since he attended a schoolfriend's four years earlier, and he realised that "death is never very far off". In 1969, excavating the nave of a church with an archaeological group, he fell into a burial vault. Looking around, he saw "nothing gruesome. But there were elaborate brassplates and backplates on the coffins, so I took some notes." Gradually he became known as a respectable expert, and was invited to other disturbed vaults and churchyards. He backed up his notes by collecting, from paintings and books and ephemera such as

mourning-cards, evidence of the history of the English funeral.

The funeral's development throws all sorts of odd lights on social history. By the end of the 18th century there was distinct snob value in purchasing a ritual which imitated the aristocratic. The Victorian poor were bamboozled into spending disproportionate sums on an unnecessary spectacle.

By the first world war, such funerals were ripe for simplification, and the arrival of the motor-borne put paid to many of the trimmings: "You can't drape velvet on a van," Mr Litten says. Since then, although the selling of unnecessary furbelows such as fancy shrouds with bowties does continue, the trend has been towards ever-starker dismissals of the dead. Somewhere between vulgar pomp and air-terminal blandness, Mr Litten feels, must lie the golden mean: he would like to see better-designed crematoria. "The correct architectural setting is dramatic. There is no excuse for a crematorium looking like the waiting-room of some appalling private hospital." He cannot abide the modern convenience of memorial services. "Death should disrupt. It does not come at our convenience. There is something insulting about people not going to the funeral, but to some largely secular event strangled to fit everyone's diary."

But the book keeps such strictures to an austere minimum. Rather he records the pomp, the pathos, and the oddities of death.

Some tackle it head-on, like John Donne, the poet, dressing up in a shroud to have his likeness taken, or a certain Mr Drax of Dorset who rehearsed his funeral all through the 1880s, being carried down the drive in a coffin shouldered by his gardeners, and shouting: "Hi, down your eyes, keep steep! You are shaking the corpse!" Some become unhealthily fixed on preserving the body: the embalming chapter contains details of Hannah Beswick ("The Manchester Beauty") which only a man with Mr Litten's sure touch could get away with. Others go to the opposite extreme, like the attractively earnest surgeon who in 1875 wrote to *The Times* advocating wicker coffins filled with ferns and sweet herbs to biodegrade quickly.



Grave tidings: Julian Litten, author of a history of the English funeral through the centuries

Some attempt frivolity, like Colonel Luttrell who turned up on February 16, 1771, at Mrs Cornely's Masquerade at the Pantheon dressed as a coffin and "cast such a gloom over the proceedings that he was obliged to leave almost as soon as he had arrived". Mr Litten is largely undisturbed by the things he has seen, only once in his researches having

come by accident upon a recently vandalised tomb, which shocked him. "My reaction was 'Oh, the poor person, they wouldn't have wanted anyone to see them like that.' Death must have its decency." In fact, the only sign of vulnerability I could detect came in his surprising confession that he cannot bring himself ever to use a sleeping-bag. "No... per-

haps I've seen too many shrouds..." He cheers up when describing the plans for his own funeral. "A solid coffin of oak 1½ inches thick, finished with eight coats of beeswax. I hope my relatives will have a party where the only refreshment served is champagne, iced gingerbread, and fruitcake saturated with brandy."

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Of God and Mammon

Big money awaits a religious prizewinner

This afternoon in New York, a prominent British Jew will be given the world's largest monetary award in recognition of his achievements in advancing the world's understanding of love of God.

He will be the first Jew to win the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, worth £410,000.

The award was created in 1972 by Sir John Templeton, the Wall Street financier and religious philanthropist, to fill what he felt was a void in existing awards. The first winner, in 1973, was Mother Teresa. Last year the prize was shared by Baba Amte, a Hindu lawyer who has devoted his life to advancing the cause of India's lepers, and Charles Birch, an Australian biologist researching issues of science and faith.

Sir John, aged 78, was knighted by the Queen in 1987 for charitable services. He founded Templeton College at Oxford.

He was born in 1912 in Winchester, Tennessee, the son of a lawyer and cotton grower. He won a place at Yale in 1930 to read economics. After a Rhodes scholarship took him to Oxford, he started on Wall Street in 1937.

He heads a worldwide financial empire of more than 64 mutual funds managing more than \$16 billion. He likes Britain and became naturalised some years ago.

To underscore the importance of the Templeton Prize, he stipulated it must always be larger than the Nobel. Most of the winners, who include Alexander Solzhenitsyn, have used the money to further the causes which brought them to the attention of the Templeton Foundation. Mother Teresa invested her prize money in the Missionaries of Charity, founded by her to help homeless children in Calcutta. Billy Graham devoted his prize in 1982 to helping itinerant third world evangelists.

One of the stated goals of the award is to increase sensitivity to the diversity of religious thought. The nine judges are instructed to consider all faiths. Sir John, a Presbyterian elder, does not take part in choosing the winner.

Sir John believes the prize is not for saintliness or good works, but for progress. One of his goals has been to "influence educated people to wake up to religion". This year's winner can be guaranteed to attempt to do that.

RUTH GLEDHILL

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The book that binds

WITH the waiting list for counselling from Relate (formerly the National Marriage Guidance Council) now up to nine months long in some areas, *The Relate Guide to Better Relationships*, a DIY manual of marriage guidance, is bound to be a best-seller. The book, published tomorrow by Ebury Press at £6.99, intersperses case studies with advice, such as listing everything that annoys them about their partner, and talking together about sexual stimuli. The book looks at the impact on relationships of working motherhood, affairs and life changes such as retirement or the children leaving home — and gives guidance on how to get through such events. It also discusses the difference between living together and marriage.

Chelsea style

THE design showrooms of Chelsea will be thrown open to the public on Friday and Saturday as part of the week-long annual event known as Chelsea Design Week. Participants include Anna French, Bernard Thorp, Brunschwig & Fils, Chesil Court Studios, Christopher Wray Lighting, Colefax & Fowler and Designers Guild. Complimentary transport will run between the showrooms, and there are lectures all week at the Chelsea Harbour Rooms, Chelsea

Garden Market, at 7pm. Lectures cost £15 each. For details on any aspect of Chelsea Design Week — the earlier part of which has been for the trade — telephone 071-233 5971.

From fat to fit

"OVER-Forty Fatties" are welcome at the new gym at the Sanctuary, the women-only club in Floral Street, in London's Covent Garden. Yvonne Harper-Wake, the gym's managing director, says she wants it to attract working women who are not super-fit. Classes, payable on attendance, include low and high impact aerobics, body conditioning, Reebok step workouts, aquaerobics, the Alexander technique and Tai chi. There is also a swimming pool. Group classes cost about £1.50 an hour, personal training is £30 an hour, annual membership costs £45 and "non-member casual use" is £10 daily. Opening hours are 7.15am to 9pm. Over-Forty Fatty sessions cost £1.50 for a six-week programme which includes both individual and group sessions.

& BRIEFLY

War games

BEFORE the Gulf war causes fire, the computer software company PD Soft produced a "USA vs Iraq" game which, it says, is "not a jingoistic cry for war but a strong comment on what a travesty it is for all involved". Details from PD Soft, 1 Bryant Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2YD.

VICTORIA MCKEE



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Fresh air on a high-tech shoestring

Sue Moore considers the journey of the sports shoe from space-age spin off to urban fashion statement

Legions of high-tech trainers are pounding urban pavements, their tongues hanging out. To traditionalists the chunky new sports shoes make them seem as if they have landed from outer space. Appearance is not entirely deceptive. A closer look at the complicated internal workings of the trainers on display in the Science Museum's "Running on Air" exhibition reveals that the design of these fashionable shock absorbers for feet has its origins in space travel technology.

The exhibition traces the history of the air-cushioning system in the Nike company's sports shoes, which is based on an idea originally developed by an aerospace engineer, Frank Rudy. Studying the effects of the pressurised gas bags that let lunar modules land safely, Mr Rudy saw an alternative use for the concept. It was transposed to ski boots in the early Seventies, proved useful in ice hockey skates and basketball boots, and eventually, after Mr Rudy approached Nike with the idea, it was designed into the 1979 Tailwind, the first Nike shoe to use air-cushioning to support a foot. Subsequent models have included inflatable collars, and cataway windows in the soles.

These high-technology developments are far removed from the customised clodhoppers which are the ancestors of today's lightweight sports shoes. Well into the late

19th century, rugby players and footballers tramped about the playing fields in hobnailed workboots. There was no such thing as a specifically designed sports shoe in Britain until 1876, when the New Liverpool Rubber Company produced a lightweight canvas croquet shoe with a vulcanised rubber sole. It swiftly earned the nickname "plimsoll", because the join between upper and sole resembled the loading lines painted on ships' hulls then being advocated by Samuel Plimsoll. The basic shape of the plimsoll remains a design classic, current in contemporary sneakers and deck shoes.

Vulcanised rubber still makes regular appearances in the soles of modern sports shoes, but in recent years the proliferation of new polyurethanes, foams and nylons has given shoe designers an impressive range of ingredients from which to develop comfortable and supportive trainers. Although uppers come in eye-catching colours and complicated finework connecting up to 30 separate pieces, the most innovative design technology is used to construct the soles. The 6ft models on show at the Science Museum reveal how Nike's "air support" soles are put together, and demonstrate the uses of each kind of material. Energetic visitors can give a hammering to a variety of different soles, imitating the rigorous testing of new designs at the company's sports research laboratory in Oregon.

The technological and bio-mechanical expertise invested in new trainer design reflects the manufacturers' belief that their products are primarily sports shoes. Whether that claim remains strictly true today is debatable, but certainly in their first incarnation, the shoes were designed by athletes for athletes. The founder of Reebok, Joseph William Foster, was a keen amateur runner. In 1892, frustrated by the weighty footwear on the market, he designed and made one of the first pairs of specialised spiked running pumps for himself.

Impressed by the design, fellow athletes in the Bolton Primrose Harriers running club put their orders in, and by the turn of the century Foster

had set up the family business that later became Reebok International.

During the first half of the 20th century, requests from athletes for perfect running shoes set ever more demanding briefs for designers. Extra weight was shed, and less very definitely meant more. In 1938, when the sprinter,

C.B. Holmes, won the Commonwealth Games 220yd race, he wore a very special pair of Foster's shoes. Their rubber soles were so thin that each pair lasted for only one race. Holmes ran his way through three separate pairs of pumps in the heat, semi-final and final before winning the gold medal.

Although the close connection between manufacturers and athletes continues, trainers are no longer fine sporting equipment. Twenty-five years ago, when New Balance produced the first wide-based running shoe designed on orthopaedic principles, it was available only through a special mail-order service to athletes. Now the designs which were originally intended to improve the speed and performance of serious athletes have gained highly marketable street credibility. Now New Balance shoes grace the feet of couch potatoes everywhere. They, and every other piece of technologically advanced sports footwear, are not just

for the fit, but for the fashion conscious.

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"Running on Air" is at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (071-938 8181) from March 8 to May 10. Open 10am-6pm, Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm Sun. £3.50 adults; £1.75 children (5-15 years); students: £2.40; £2 OAPs. Free 4.30-6pm daily.



Soles in torment: exhausted London marathon runners grapple with their feet a break; sports shoes have come a long way, too, since they set off in 1876

A cloves show for the heart

Tomorrow brings another boost for the health-giving properties of garlic

The herbaceous borders of natural medicine will be extended at a conference in Berlin tomorrow, when physicians, pharmacologists and fringe followers gather with just one word on their lips: garlic.

For thousands of years the pungent bulb has been used to treat everything from acne and arthritis to warts and worms. The ancient Greeks prescribed what they called the "stinking rose", and the Egyptians placed some in Tutankhamun's tomb.

Along the way, garlic has also served as a vampire repellent, an aphrodisiac, an essential ingredient in cooking and an English excuse for keeping the French at a distance. Only recently has



another of its properties begun to be recognised and exploited. Research shows that garlic can protect against some forms of heart disease by reducing blood cholesterol levels, and the health food industry has sniffed a new way of making a fortune. The market in garlic supplements in Britain has doubled in the past three years and is now worth about £10 million annually. Every day, about half a million people in the UK swallow the virtually odourless tablets.

They include unlikely converts such as Ken Taylor, the British Heart Foundation's professor of cardiac surgery at London university and Hammersmith hospital. "My wife has been giving me them every day for the past couple of years," he says.

His approval is shared by the 250 delegates attending the four-day meeting at the Free university, Berlin. The international garlic symposium sounds like some kind of cloves show, but will be the venue for earnest appraisals of garlic research.

Berlin is an appropriate place for the conference, because the Germans are well head in the garlic stakes. According to Dr Jorg Grunwald, several million of its countrymen take a daily one and garlic tablets are the nation's biggest-selling non-prescription drug.

Dr Grunwald, it should be said, is head of the medical scientific department at Licht-

wer Pharma, the Berlin company that makes Kwai, a leading brand of garlic supplements, and which is sponsoring the symposium. The company claims about half of the British market.

The most persuasive evidence of garlic's medical effect comes from a study carried out last year by the German Association of General Practitioners, involving 260 patients in 30 centres. After four months of treatment with concentrated garlic powder tablets, patients' cholesterol levels were reduced by 12 per cent, and levels of triglyceride, another type of lipid, or blood fat, were cut by 17 per cent.

Whether eaten raw, crushed, in oils or tablets, garlic is known to have antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal properties, and is said to be effective in treating asthma, bowel disorders, digestive complaints, kidney pain, insect stings, toothache, coughs and colds, sickness and diarrhoea, sore throats and voice loss. Why should garlic be good

for you? The answers are in its active ingredients, particularly allicin, a natural chemical that suppresses the production of blood fats in the liver (onions contain allicin but have a weaker effect).

"Perhaps the time has come to promote garlic eating in Britain and other northern European countries, and the prescription of garlic by doctors as part of a preventive or therapeutic package," says Dr Michael Turner, a London researcher, in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Health*.

Tom Sanders, a lecturer in nutrition at King's College, London, is unconvinced. He will attend the Berlin meeting, "to find out what's worthwhile and what's just hype," he says. Dr Sanders is designing the British study for the Family Heart Association, a charity based in Botley, Oxford. Barbara Morgan, one of the association's researchers, says: "The big snags are the unpleasant image garlic has for many people, and the fact that, for it to be effective, it will have to be taken just about every day of your life. That's a lot to swallow."

THOMSON PRENTICE



THE ART OF REACHING THAT FIRST MILLION.

On March 6th, 1991, a very significant tree will be planted at the Watergrove Reservoir, near Rochdale.

It will mark the culmination of three years effort by over 65,000 people.

It will demonstrate how generosity of time, energy and money can pay off to the benefit of us all.

For every one of these folk responded to the "Plant a Million Trees" campaign launched by the

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, with the added support of Esso and the Countryside Commission, in a bid to help replace

the vast numbers lost each year in Britain.

And on March 6th all their efforts will be rewarded with the ceremonial planting of the one millionth tree.

Not that this occasion marks the end of the campaign. Far from it...

Now the momentum has been established, it's vital that the campaign is kept going - for every year, trees continue to be lost in great numbers and we need to carry on planting and caring for them.

And you can be part of it - with your time, money or preferably both.

Start by sending the coupon, today, and you really could be helping to make this country a better place to live in.

To: Million Tree Campaign, Freepost, BTCV Dept. G, Oxon, OX10 0BR. I should like to help and enclose a donation for £ . I should like your free Action Pack ☐. Please tick appropriate box(es). Name

Address

Postcode

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BRIEFING

Rocking rector

DONNIE Munro, the lead singer of the Scottish rock band, Runrig, has been elected rector of Edinburgh University, replacing the ubiquitous media personality Muriel Gray. Munro faced stiff competition from Scotland's best-known art impresario, Richard Demarco, who was running for the office for the fifth time. The position is traditionally a high-profile one in Edinburgh. Previous incumbents have included J.M. Barrie, Malcolm Muggeridge and Gordon Brown, the MP.

Frock funds

SADLER'S Wells Theatre is finding ever more ingenious ways of funding visits by foreign companies; the visit of the Paul Taylor Dance Company from America this December is going to be largely thanks to a fund-raising fashion show in a top New York hotel tomorrow. Sadler's Wells has arranged for Marc Bohan's collection for Hartnell to be presented at an exclusive showing in the presence of Princess Margaret in New York, where Sadler's Wells Association Inc., the charity which raises funds to bring American dance companies to Britain, is based. The Paul Taylor company last visited the Wells in 1989, after an absence of 16 years.

Last chance...

THE Royal Ballet's stylish senior ballerina, Lesley Collier, dances Nikiya tonight in the last performance this season at Covent Garden. (071-240 1066) of Natalia Malakova's spectacular although not very dramatic production of *La Bayadere*. Collier has one of the company's brightest young hopes, Stuart Cassidy, as her admirer Solor, and Nicola Tranfaglia as her rival, Gamzatti. After this the company goes off to Washington.

EXHIBITION

To the glory of God, thanks to Wren

St Paul's Cathedral is the natural focus for a show celebrating the work of Sir Christopher Wren, previewed by John Russell Taylor

Wren was by any standards a prolific architect. He would probably not have wished the larger part of the City to be burnt down in the Great Fire, but it gave him a wonderful opportunity to exercise his art: even though, as tends to be the way at such moments, his grand plans for turning London into a baroque metropolis full of piazzas, churches and vistas went by the board in piecemeal redevelopment.

The one area where he must have reacted in unalloyed relief to the fire was St Paul's. As architect in charge of the ramshackle Old St Paul's, he had by 1666 already been trying to cope with the building's problems for five years. It was not easy. Though the old building was said to be much loved, it had become something of a slum, littered with traders and other undesirable secular occupants. The fabric was not in good condition, and Wren's first solutions were to take the cue of Inigo Jones's classical colonnade, incongruously stuck on the front of the mouldering gothic pile, and classically the whole thing, with a spindly new dome over the crossing in place of the existing spire.

From what may be seen of it in the Royal Academy's new show, Sir Christopher Wren and the Making of St Paul's, this seems unlikely to have been a very satisfactory solution. The mind boggles at what 19th-century Gothic revivalists would have had to say about Wren for carrying out any such iconoclastic scheme. But the Great Fire, luckily for architecture, gave him a clean sweep.

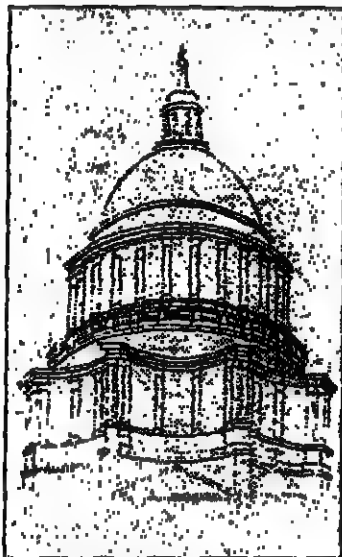
There was no argument that the remains of the old building were too tottery to be patched any more, and the decision was rapidly taken to raze them to the ground and start again. In 1669, Wren was appointed Surveyor of His Majesty's Works, which made him the obvious person to design the new cathedral, and by the next year he had completed the first model of his new design, at this time a long, galleried church with a small dome at the west end.

Nobody seems to have been very satisfied with this, and by 1672 Wren had completed his Greek Cross design, centred symmetrically on a large dome. Subsequent critics have often felt that this was the finest of all his designs,

but it seems to have been regarded as a little too radical in terms of the Church of England, its liturgy and conventions.

The following year, Wren took account of such criticisms by extending the design westward to give the semblance of a nave. And to reinforce the effect of the new version, he had the so-called Great Model made. This is normally on view in the crypt of St Paul's, but there it remains one of the great unseen sights of London.

It therefore makes a fitting centrepiece to the Royal Academy show, coming as a novelty to the vast majority of visitors. It has even been specially restored for the occasion, and re-measured, prov-



Working drawing by Wren: "Elevation of dome on a concave octagonal podium"

ing to be at least 20 feet long instead of the traditional 18.

The sheer scale of the model is overwhelming. The pity is that it is obviously impractical for visitors to crawl underneath and look up inside the great wooden structure, for the detailing is as astonishing inside as out. But it remains, even to a superficial view, a great piece of baroque woodwork in its own right, as well as preserving vividly an earlier stage in the evolution of the finished design to which the world is accustomed.

Arguably, the proportions of this version, with its wider-based dome (closer to St Peter's than the final form) are more satisfactory than

they are in the cathedral as built. But it is exciting to have the chance readily at hand to compare the two versions.

Once the design was agreed upon (more or less) work proceeded still in a manner more steadily than urgent. The Wrenian for building was finally sealed in 1675, and though foundations began to be laid, the remains of Inigo Jones's portico were not demolished until 1687, and the building was not officially finished until 1711.

This means that St Paul's had been Wren's major preoccupation for some 40 years: years of constant creative thinking and rethinking, and latterly of some bitterness, with half of Wren's salary withheld until completion.

Even after Wren had withdrawn from the construction the Commissioners continued to tinker with the design, and in 1717 a balustrade was added, much against Wren's wishes. Though his epitaph, when he was buried in the crypt, "If you seek his monument, look around you", was correct enough, it must have carried a few ironic overtones.

A part from its major piece of the Great Model (and a few other model fragments), the present show, sponsored by Reed International and Peterborough Associates, chronicles exhaustively the history of St Paul's under the aegis of Wren. The 350th anniversary Wren show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in 1982 exhibited for the first time many of the related drawings by Wren himself and his office, as well as by notable pupils and assistants such as Hawksmoor, which had only just been rediscovered. But there St Paul's was seen in the wider context of Wren's career as a whole. Here the focus narrows to just the one masterpiece.

The masterpiece, however, is towering enough to deserve a whole show to itself. With almost all the relevant documents, from the model down to the tiniest scribbles, gathered together in one place, it is hard to imagine how it could be better done.

Sir Christopher Wren and the Making of St Paul's. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1 (071-439 7438) Opening on Friday, daily 10-6, until May 12. Admission £3 (£2 for concessions and special rates for pre-booked parties).



The Royal Society's portrait of Wren, with St Paul's Cathedral on the left, by Johann B. Clostermann

C A N A R I A S

A CLIMATE OF PEACE

You can feel it in the air, the sea and throughout the land.

You can breathe it. The peace of our islands has extended throughout the world.

Congratulations, world.

canarias
A WARM NATURE



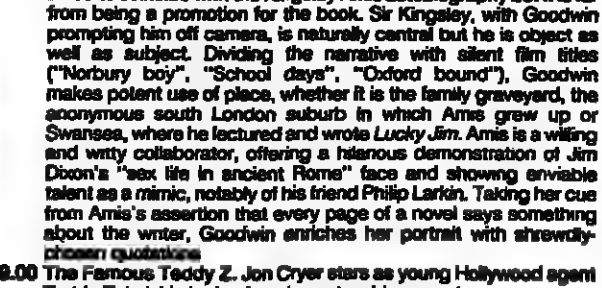
6.00 **Ceebox 6.30** BBC Breakfast News
9.15 **Kirby** Robert Kirby-Silk chairs a discussion on drinking at work
9.55 **Regional news** and weather
10.00 **News** and weather **10.05** **Playdays (r)** **10.30** **Dish of the Day** served by **Antony Brown** **10.40** **Going for Gold (r)**
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
11.05 **People Today**, includes a phone-in on problem relationships
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather **12.05** **Happy Memories**, Cliff Michelson and Wendy Gibson rekindle some more viewers' memories using music and archive film **12.20** **Scene Today** with David Jones and Alan Titchmarsh **12.55** **Regional News** and weather
1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather
1.30 **Neighbours**, (Ceebox) **1.50** **Going for Gold**
2.15 **Kids Landing**, Drama and intrigue with the rich residents of a California cul-de-sac **3.05** **King and Company**, Simon King is joined on his wildlife photography tour by actor Mark McManus, who watches him on his hunt, and by a schoolgirl hoping to see her deer grazing (r) **3.40** **Cartoon**
3.50 **Bodger and Badger**, Episode nine of the 12-part children's comedy series set in a school **4.05** **Jimbo and the Jet Set (r)** **4.10** **Jeopardy**, Penelope Walton reads part three of Mrs Henry de la Pasture's 'The Unlucky Family' **4.25** **The Chipmunks** **4.35** **Potsworth and Co**
5.00 **Newsround 5.10** **Dodgem**, Episode three of the six-part children's drama series (Ceebox)
5.35 **Neighbours (r)**, (Ceebox), Northern Ireland: Sportsweek **5.40** **Inside Ulster**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey, Weather **6.30** **Regional News**, Magazines, Wales (6.55), Party Political Broadcast (Pled Cymru), Northern Ireland: Sportsweek **7.00** **Wogan**, The guests are Andrew Lloyd Webber and his wife Meda, Bobby Davro, author Jack Higgins and, with a song, Fergal Sharkey
7.40 **Doogie Howser MD**, American comedy drama series about a teenage doctor entering Neil Patrick Harris, (Ceebox)
8.05 **Over My Dead Body**, A sort of *Murder He Wrote*, with Edward Woodward as a San Francisco-based mystery writer who is persuaded each week to help journalist Nicki (Jessica Lundy) solve a crime.
8.50 **Nine O'Clock News**, With Anna Robinson
9.00 **News** with Michael Barker, (Ceebox) Regional news and weather



Sounding off with Beethoven's help: Dr John Pond (8.30pm)

8.30 **CED: The Power of Sound**, CHOICE: John Pond, who lectured in physics at Southampton University before inheriting the family firm, offers a lively demonstration of the often unappreciated properties and applications of sound. The scientific explanations may be a little daunting to the uninitiated but Pond's examples belong very much to the everyday world. He proceeds from cracking a wine glass and tearing through a metal plate to the more constructive use of sound in welding, plastering, testing smoke pollution and helping cancer therapy. Along the way he explains the help of Beethoven to show that there is no essential difference between the sound that welded plates and deformed metal and the music of the Moonlight Sonata. He even manages to make a Beethoven recording by transmitting the sound through a stick of wood. (Ceebox)
10.00 **Sportnight** introduced by Steve Rider, Boxing: live coverage of the heavyweight contest at Wembley between Gary Massey and Lennox Lewis, both British and undefeated. Plus highlights of the 20-year-old battle between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier; Motor Racing: a preview of this year's Formula 1 racing season that begins this weekend in Phoenix, Arizona; and Football: tonight's results and a look forward to the weekend's FA Cup sixth round.
11.30 **Film: Oh... You Are Awful (1972)**, Awful is the word for this vehicle for comedian Dick Emery, who was very popular on television but did not make a successful transition to film. A swindler tries to con a rich Italian woman out of £500,000 by pretending to arrange a marriage between her son and the Princess Royal. Directed by Cliff Owen, Northern Ireland: Film 81 **12.10-12.25** **The Barry Awards** for Comic Relief
1.05am **Weather**

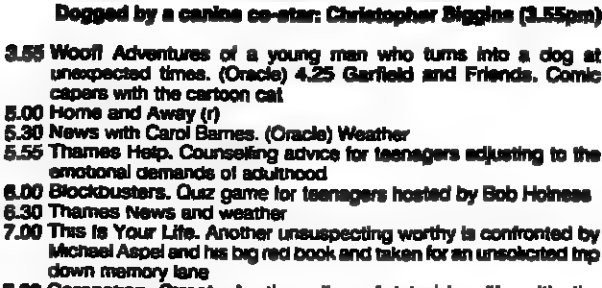
6.45 **Open University: Social Sciences**, The UK - Continuity and Change. Ends at 7.35
8.00 **News**, 8.15 **Westminster**, A round-up of business from the Lords and Commons
9.00 **Daytime on Two**, Teaching today 9.30 **Advances** in maths for seven to nine-year-olds 9.45 **Science** for five and six-year-olds 10.00 **You and me** 10.15 **Science** in a spin 10.40 **Out and about** in Scotland 11.00 **Learning** to read 11.15 **English** 11.25 **Teaching today** 12.10 **Science** in action 12.30 **Living in a divided society** 12.55 **Maths** help for adults 1.20 **Pie in the Sky** 1.40 **Zig Zag**
2.00 **News** and weather followed by *You and Me* (r)
2.15 **Canvases**, An appreciation of *And When Did You Last See Your Father* by W.F. Yeomans (r) **2.35** **Country File** investigates the future of Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland, under threat from various interest groups in the area (r)
3.00 **News** and weather followed by *Westminster Live* 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather
4.00 **Catchword**, The game for wordsmiths, hosted by Paul Cole.
4.30 **Lighting Time**, Dr Sheila Cassidy runs the St. Luke's hospice in Plymouth but in 1975 she died of cancer. A report on the hospice and the life of the hospice. Anne Kellher talks to her about the experience, how it has affected her and how it has clarified her religious beliefs. They also discuss her fierce and absolute opposition to euthanasia.
5.00 **News** followed by *Miniature Worlds: A Load of Rubbish*, The world of miniature models, a rubish top (r)
5.10 **Horizon**, Playing at Nobs, A report on the plan of conservation of the creation of what he calls a "technological ark" of spaces (r)
6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation**, A bizarre malfunction has caused a shuttlecraft carrying Counselor Troi to crash on to planet Vega 2. Unfortunately for her, the planet is populated solely by an evil being whose greatest pleasure is to make humans suffer. (Ceebox)
6.50 **DEF II** begins with *Reportage*, An examination of the degree to which personal rights are limited or infringed, from curbs on freedom of speech to confidential police computer files 7.40 **Rapido**, Arsene de Coumes with his snappy suit and exaggerated accent presents another edition of his popular international music show
8.10 **Bookmarks: Amis K - The Memoirs**, CHOICE: David Goodwin's film makes no bones about being tired to coincide with the Kingsey Amis autobiography but it is far from being a promotion for the book. Sir Kingsey, with Goodwin prompting him off camera, is naturally central but he is object as well as subject. Dividing the narrative with silent film titles ("Nobury boy", "School days", "Oxford bound"), Goodwin makes potent use of place, whether it is the family graveyard, the anonymous south London suburb in which Amis grew up or Swinsea, where he lectured and wrote *Lucky Jim*. Amis is a willing and witty collaborator, offering a hilarious demonstration of Jim Dixon's "sex life in ancient Rome" face and showing enviable talent as a mimic, notably of his friend Philip Larkin. Taking her cue from Amis's assertion that every page of a novel says something about the writer, Goodwin enriches her portrait with shrewdly-chosen quotations.
9.00 **The Famous Teddy Z**, Jon Cryer stars as young Hollywood agent Teddy Zakalowski in the American showbiz comedy
9.25 **Antonia and Jane**, Perceptive comedy by Mary Kahan, beautifully acted by Imelda Staunton and Saskia Reeves as schoolfriends who meet each year for a reunion dinner. It all appears very convincing, but beneath the chat and gossip lies a subtle relationship that will not be down and die. An interesting analysis of the motives, both hidden and apparent, that underlie friendships. The supporting cast includes Brenda Bruce and Alfred Marks and there are guest appearances from the unlikely pair of Claire Rayner and Michael Gough. The director is Beban Kidron of *Changes Are Not the Only Fruit*, which has been nominated for eight BAFTA awards (r)
10.30 **Newsnight** presented by Peter Snow
11.15 **The Late Show**, Includes a profile of Julian Cope **11.55** **Weather**
12.00 **Open University: Business** 12.25 **Open University: Science** 12.50 **Open University: Arts** 1.05 **Weather**



Dogged by a canine co-star: Christopher Biggins (3.55pm)

3.55 **Woof!** Adventures of a young man who turns into a dog at unexpected times, (Ceebox) **4.25** **Garfield and Friends**, Comic capers with the cartoon cat
5.00 **Home and Away (r)**
5.30 **News** with Carol Barnes, (Ceebox) Weather
5.55 **Thames Help**, Counselling advice for teenagers adjusting to the emotional demands of adulthood
6.00 **Blockbusters**, Quiz game for teenagers hosted by Bob Holness
6.30 **Thames News** and weather
7.00 **This Is Your Life**, Another unsuspecting worthy is confronted by Michael Aspel and his big red book and taken for an unlooked trip down memory lane
7.30 **Coronation Street**, Another slice of television life with the residents of Britain's most famous street. (Ceebox)
8.00 **The Match**, Inspector Morse has to make way this week for five coverage of the game at Old Trafford between Manchester United and the France national team. The European cup winners' cup, which has been a long time in the making, is introduced by Brian Moore
10.00 **News at Ten** with Julie Somerville and Trevor McDonald, (Ceebox)
10.30 **Thames News** and weather
10.40 **Film: The Anderson Tapes (1971)**, Polished crime thriller with Sean Connery as an ex-con who forms a gang to burglar an entire Fifth Avenue building, unaware that his colleagues with the Mafia about funding are being taped by (among others) the police. The strong supporting cast includes Martin Balsam, Dyan Cannon and Christopher Walken. Directed by Sidney Lumet
12.00am **Film: Gregory's Girl (1980)**, Beano comic John Gordon Sinclair in hilarious form playing the Scottish teenager Gregory, who is slowly and seductively becoming aware of the opposite sex. This is a lovely supporting performance by the actress as the schoolgirl who becomes the focus of Gregory's passion. Directed in his quirky comic style by Bill Forsyth, who went on to make *Local Hero*
2.15 **Videofashion**, A look at the international models who grace magazine covers around the world
2.40 **America's Top Ten**
3.10 **Older**, Night, Pub and club quiz competition hosted by Martin Roberts
3.40 **The Champion & Basil Video Show**, Mick Champion and Alan Ball look back fondly at football moments
4.40 **Fifty Years On**, Newsreels from 1941
5.00 **Nashville Swing**, Country music show. The guest is Don Everly (r)
5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Richard Bath. Ends at 6.00

6.00 **TV-am** begins with *Good Morning Britain* presented by Maya Even and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine Kelly. Includes main news on the hour and headlines on the half hour. After Nine, presented by Kathy Taylor, features microwave cooking hints and Dr Hilary Jones with medical advice
9.25 **Lucky Laddies**, Lennie Bennett hosts the quiz game show 9.55 **Thames News** and weather
10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...**, Mike Scott chairs a discussion with women who have lost babies. Is the counselling provided adequate?
10.40 **This Morning**, Magazine programme focusing on home and family matters. Presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. With national and international news headlines at 10.55 and regional news headlines at 11.55 followed by national weather
12.05 **Alerts**, Children's programme 12.25 **Thames News** and weather
12.30 **News** with John Suchet, Weather
1.20 **Home and Away** 1.50 **A Country Practice**, Soap set in a rural Australia
2.20 **Take the High Road**, Scottish soap set in the Highlands 2.50 **Give Us a Clue**, Michael Parkinson hosts the celebrity chat show. Liza Goddard is joined by Rula Lenska, Wilbert Farnley and Anna Dawson, while on Lionel Star's team are Kenny Everett, Fraser Hines and Michael Winner
3.15 **ITN News** headlines 3.20 **Thames News** headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors**, Australian medical drama



To the defence of the Armagh four: Margaret Bell (8.30pm)

8.30 **Free for All**, CHOICE: Channel 4's new viewer access series offers a platform to Margaret Bell, whose son and three other young soldiers are serving life sentences for the sectarian killing of a Catholic man in Northern Ireland. The case of the Armagh four has clear parallels with those of the Guildford four and the Birmingham six, in that the convictions were largely secured on confessions made in police custody. The other common factor is that their families have consistently protested their innocence. The difference is that Protestants, not Catholics, are questioning the fairness of British justice. The four accused were members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and had a central role in a system that their community had traditionally upheld. Now they and their families find themselves crossing the ideological divide to sympathise with the supposed bombers of Guildford and Birmingham
10.00 **The Golden Girls**, Another showing for the first series of the hit American comedy series about four women of mature years who share a Miami house (r)
10.30 **Vic Reeves Big Night Out**, Comedy series
11.00 **The Very Best of Absolutely**, Highlights of the comedy revue, including what fish really say to each other and the world's most unusual deaths
11.35 **Sci-Fi Channel: A Show of Shows (b/w)**, Classic American comedy series
12.05am **Channel 4 News** - Midnight Special with Nicholas Owen. Ends at 2.00

6.00 **The Channel Four Daily**
9.25 **Schools**
12.05 **News summary**
12.05 **Parliament**, Programme. Sue Cameron with a round up of business in both Houses
12.30 **Business Daily**, Financial and business news service presented by Suzanne Simons
1.00 **Sesame Street**, Entertaining education series for pre-school children
2.00 **Film: Billy Rose's Diamond Horseshoe (1946)**, Betty Grable stars in lush romantic musical as a showgirl who is given a mink coat in exchange for persuading her boss's son (Dick Haymes) to fall in love with her. Problems arise when she finds herself really falling in love. The cast includes Margaret Dumont, taking a break from the Marx brothers, and Phil Silvers. Directed by George Seaton
4.00 **Not Pats: The Basketmakers** - Beyond Theory, Profiles of two contrasting basketmakers - one who makes traditional designs, the other who uses rubbish and sells her work to art galleries around the world (r). (Teletext)
4.30 **Countdown**, Richard Whitley hosts the words and numbers game
5.00 **The Adventures of Tintin**, Episode 15 of *The Treasure of Rackham the Red* (r)
5.05 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**, Oprah nearly causes a fist-fight between members of her panel and the studio audience when she asks them the question "Why do men favour pretty women?"
6.00 **The Wonder Years**, Emmy award-winning comedy series about growing up in States America (r)
6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**, The guests are model Helen Mirren and Jimmy Nail, co-creator, writer and star of the BBC drama series *Spender*
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext)
7.50 **Party Political**, Comment from a Conservative party politician
8.00 **Brookside**, More from the residents of the Merseyside cul-de-sac. (Teletext)
8.30 **Dispatches**, A report from Tibet on the extent of the damage caused by Chinese repression. With eyewitness verification of abuses of brutality and torture by the Chinese authorities since 1989
8.15 **Short and Curly: Making Waves**, A young man joins a group of retired ladies for a trip to the seaside in this short film with a twist. Starring Sheila Hancock and Kenneth Cranham (r). (Teletext)



To the defence of the Armagh four: Margaret Bell (8.30pm)

8.30 **Free for All**, CHOICE: Channel 4's new viewer access series offers a platform to Margaret Bell, whose son and three other young soldiers are serving life sentences for the sectarian killing of a Catholic man in Northern Ireland. The case of the Armagh four has clear parallels with those of the Guildford four and the Birmingham six, in that the convictions were largely secured on confessions made in police custody. The other common factor is that their families have consistently protested their innocence. The difference is that Protestants, not Catholics, are questioning the fairness of British justice. The four accused were members of the Ulster Defence Regiment and had a central role in a system that their community had traditionally upheld. Now they and their families find themselves crossing the ideological divide to sympathise with the supposed bombers of Guildford and Birmingham
10.00 **The Golden Girls**, Another showing for the first series of the hit American comedy series about four women of mature years who share a Miami house (r)
10.30 **Vic Reeves Big Night Out**, Comedy series
11.00 **The Very Best of Absolutely**, Highlights of the comedy revue, including what fish really say to each other and the world's most unusual deaths
11.35 **Sci-Fi Channel: A Show of Shows (b/w)**, Classic American comedy series
12.05am **Channel 4 News** - Midnight Special with Nicholas Owen. Ends at 2.00

6.00 **News** and weather
6.30 **News** and weather
6.55 **Regional news** and weather
7.00 **News** and weather
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- ACCOUNTANCY RESULTS 37
- SPORT 38-42

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

Williams above forecast

PRE-TAX profits of Williams Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, fell 14 per cent to £126 million last year. That is marginally ahead of the forecast of not less than £125 million made with the successful offer for Yale and Valor. As forecast, the total dividend has been raised from 11.5p to 12p.

Earnings per share fell from an adjusted 26.9p to 22.3p excluding exceptional items, or from about 27.8p to 21.5p including exceptional items.

The profit setback was mainly due to a slump in British profits from £72 million to £49.3 million. This partly reflected an 11 per cent drop in the consumer and building products division to £33.8 million as well as the sale of the Crown-Berger paints business, which yielded most of the extraordinary credit of £72 million.

Net interest charges fell £3 million to £10 million.

Raine declines

Pre-tax profits at Raine Industries fell 27 per cent to £8.1 million in the six months to the end of December with unit house sales declining by 13 per cent. Margins in all three of the company's main divisions, housebuilding, general contracting and interior contracting, have come under pressure. However, the company is paying an unchanged dividend of 0.2p and is confident of a "satisfactory performance" for the full year.

Temper, page 27

Hays is steady

Hays, the business services group, reports pre-tax profits of £27.5 million for the six months to December 31 against a pro forma £27.5 million. The interim dividend is raised from 1.15p to 1.3p.

Temper, page 27

Shares surge

Shares surged through the 2,400 mark to close at their highest for more than a year. The FT-SE 100 index jumped 37.2 to 2,420.1 - just 43.6 below its all-time high of 2,463.7 on January 3 last year. Investors shrugged off gloomy trading news from Midland Bank, pinning their hopes instead on another cut in base rates in the run-up to the Budget.

Markets, page 29

THE ROUND

US dollar 1.9005 (+0.0035)
German mark 2.9196 (+0.0064)
Exchange index 93.8 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1948.0 (+27.9)
FT-SE 100 2420.1 (+37.2)
New York Dow Jones 2956.88 (+42.57)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 25913.48 (-62.54)
Closing Prices ... Page 28

MAJOR CHANGES

RISSES	
Barclays	441½p (+11p)
Kierwatt Benson	350p (+10p)
Nat West	382½p (+21p)
Grand Met	785p (+15p)
Harcys & Harmsen	555p (+17p)
Boc	588½p (+14p)
Graham Wood	110p (+2p)
Keywood Williams	320p (+10p)
RAC Group	732½p (+20p)
Tribury Group	690p (+20p)
Turnit	95p (+10p)
Wilson Bowden	430p (+22p)
Reed Int'l	427½p (+10p)
Hunting	156½p (+10p)
GRN	230p (+10p)
St. Nels Group	222½p (+13p)
Grenada	187½p (+14p)
Pearson	749½p (+23p)
Securitor 'A'	510p (+20p)
Savoy Hotels 'A'	812½p (+13p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 13%
3-month interbank 12½%
3-month eligible bills 11½%
US: Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 6¼%
3-month Treasury 5½%
30-year bonds 9½%
30-year 95½%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£: \$1 9005	£: \$1 9005
£: DM2 9196	£: DM2 9196
£: Sfr 2 5419	£: Sfr 2 5419
£: FF6 2231	£: FF6 2231
£: Yen 155.23	£: Yen 155.23
£: Index 93.8	£: Index 93.8
ECU 20 70650	ECU 20 70650
£: ECU1 421.81	£: ECU1 421.81

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$384.30 PM \$384.50
close \$384.50-385.00 (£191.30-191.80)
New York: COMEX \$386.85-387.35

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) \$19.45 bbl (\$19.25)
Denotes latest trading price

Midland halves dividend

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR Kit McMahon has resigned as chairman and chief executive of Midland after the bank was forced to halve its dividend following a slump in profits. Midland is the first British clearing bank to cut its dividend for more than 50 years.

Sir Peter Walters, the former chairman of British Petroleum, is joining the bank as a vice-chairman, and will become chairman when Sir Kit leaves in June.

Brian Pearce, the finance director at Barclays Bank, will take over as chief executive today after a request by the Bank of England.

Sir Kit's resignation came as Midland announced that it suffered a 90 per cent fall in profits before exceptional items to £63 million in 1990. It was forced to increase its bad debt provisions by 129 per cent to £703 million.

Sir Kit, aged 64, said he had decided to leave because of the need to separate the chairman

and chief executive posts at the bank. He decided to retire after the failure of merger talks with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation last December. "If a merger had taken place a natural progression would have presented itself," he said.

He went to Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, in January to ask for help in his search for a chief executive. Mr Leigh-Pemberton persuaded Barclays to release Mr Pearce for the job. "We needed someone with top level experience in a major British banking group, able to complement our existing management team," Sir Kit said.

He was leaving a year earlier than expected to allow the new management team to begin work.

Sir Kit, deputy governor of the Bank of England before joining Midland in 1986, is entitled to a golden handshake approaching £700,000. Midland will not comment on how much he will be collecting.

Nor will the bank give details on how much it has been compelled to pay to recruit Mr Pearce. Mr Pearce said he was proud to be asked to take the job. "I agonised for five days, but I have been at Barclays for 40 years and had always wanted to do something else for a few years before I retired."

Sir Peter is taking a non-executive position at the bank and will remain chairman of Blue Circle Industries.

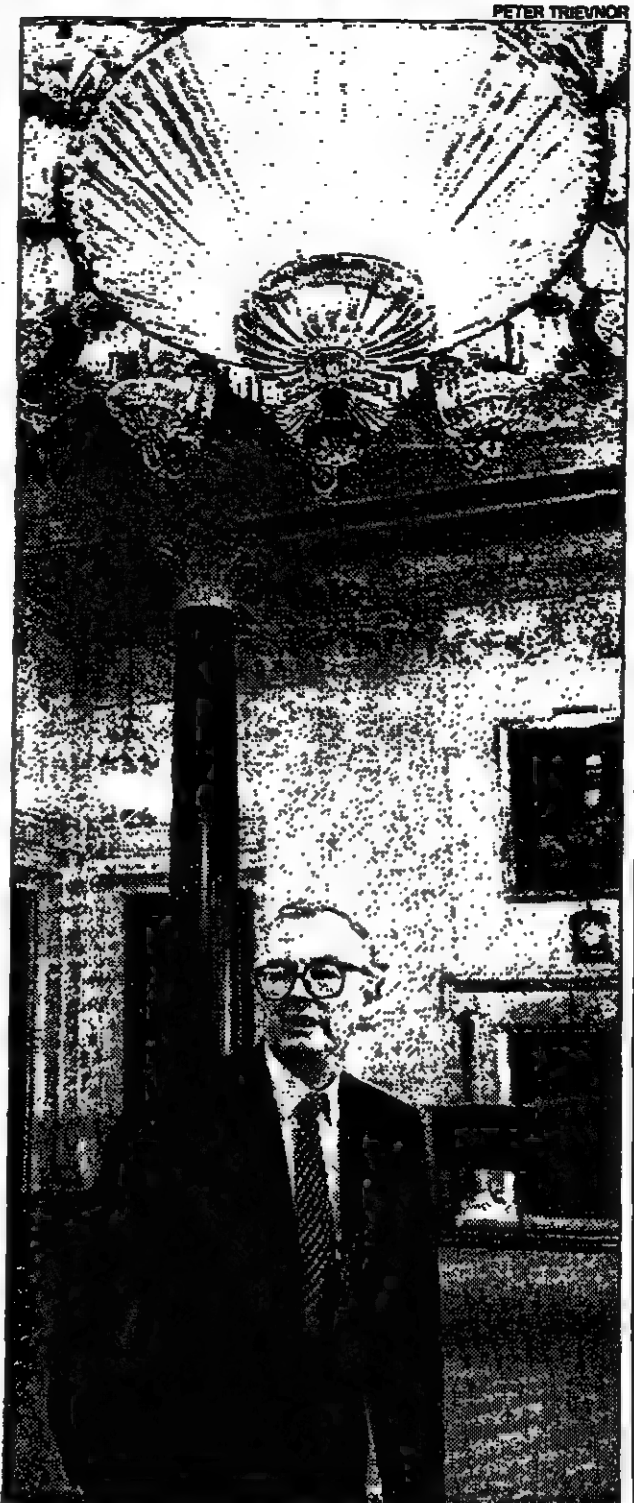
The slump in Midland's profits forced the bank to reduce its final dividend by 9p to 1.7p, to make a payout for the year of 9p, down from 18p in 1989. "It was a difficult decision to take," said Sir Kit. "We weighed up the immediate blow to shareholders income against a longer term gain. We thought it was prudent and fundamentally right to reduce the dividend."

Midland's pre-tax profit was £11 million, up from a loss of £261 million in 1989, when it made an exceptional provision of £377 million against its Third World debts.

Midland has written off its anticipated tax relief, which led to a £188 million tax charge, and the loss per share is 24.7p, against last year's 28.3p loss. The bank is also making an exceptional provision of £52 million for its restructuring.

"Our bad debt provisions have not been worse than other banks," Sir Kit said. "But our problems have been made worse through insufficient underlying profitability caused by the high costs in the business and insufficient retentions." Midland's profits were also depressed by misreading interest rate changes, which cost its treasury book more than £100 million last year.

Midland is undergoing a cost-cutting programme, including 4,000 job cuts by the end of the year.



Sir Kit McMahon, who is entitled to nearly £700,000

What went wrong

1984: Crocker National Bank, Midland's Californian subsidiary, loses \$324 million, at the time the second largest loss recorded by an American bank.

May 1986: Crocker sold to Wells Fargo, a rival Californian bank, for \$1.07 billion.

September 1986: Senior management reorganised after Sir Kit McMahon, deputy governor of the Bank of England, joins Midland as chief executive.

March 1987: Midland becomes the first casualty of the upheaval in the City after the bank decides to pull out of equity market-making.

November 1987: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation takes a 14.9 per cent stake for £333m.

February 1988: Midland announces a loss of £505 million, the first made by a British

clearing bank, after writing off £1.02 billion of Third World debts.

May 1989: Sir Kit reveals plans for 2,000 job cuts at the bank by the end of the year. Midland's cost base remains the highest of the clearers.

February 1990: The bank confirms speculation that it is negotiating a full merger with Hongkong Bank.

August 1990: Sir Kit calls the half-year profits of £36 million "unacceptable," announces the sales of Forward Trust, the finance house subsidiary, and pledges to cut 4,000 jobs.

October 1990: Abandons sale of Forward Trust - no offers.

December 1990: Midland and Hongkong Bank call off merger talks, blaming economic conditions.

March 1991: Sir Kit resigns.

Comment, page 27



Walters knighted in 1984

New man's credentials for the top job

SIR Peter Walters spent almost ten years as chairman of BP. He was appointed in November 1981 and retired last March, having joined BP in 1954. His career with the oil company included two years in New York as vice-president of BP North America (our business staff writes).

Born in Birmingham in March 1931, Sir Peter's banking experience comes from

eight years on National Westminster Bank's board, where he was a deputy chairman until 1989. He was tipped to succeed Lord Boardman as chairman in 1989, but is thought to have demanded a reduction in the size of bank's board. The post was awarded to Lord Alexander of Weedon.

He became a non-executive director of SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceuticals

group, and of Thorn EMI, the entertainment conglomerate. In 1989, becoming deputy chairman of the latter last year. In June, he was appointed non-executive chairman of Blue Circle Industries, the cement manufacturer, a job which he plans to keep.

Sir Peter was knighted in the New Year's Honours list in 1984. Married, Sir Peter has two sons and a daughter.

Other posts include past president of the General Council of British Shipping, of the Society of Chemical Industry and of the Institute of Management Studies.

In 1986, Sir Peter became president of the influential Institute of Directors and a managing trustee of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

He became a non-executive director of SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceuticals

British Coal ready to offer price guarantee

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Coal is prepared to sign supply contracts with Britain's two largest generating companies that guarantee price rises will remain within inflation, Malcolm Edwards, the corporation's commercial director, said.

Renewing his assault on alternative energy supplies in a speech to industrialists in Cheshire, Mr Edwards said ten-year contracts with British Coal were the electricity industry's best hope of avoiding inflationary price increases.

"If the price of coal is stable, the price of electricity will be stable. If it is not, then it has no chance of being stable," he said.

Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, acknowledged this week that the future of the corporation depended upon stable long-term contracts with the electricity supply

industry. The two largest generators, National Power and PowerGen, are keen to build gas-fired power stations and increase coal imports to cut costs.

However, Mr Edwards pointed to last week's 35 per cent rise in British Gas tariffs for gas supplies to new power stations as evidence that gas prices would rise as demand for power generation increased.

Increased coal imports would leave the generators vulnerable to short-term price fluctuations and changes in currency values, Mr Edwards said.

More than 600,000 applications for shares in the state-owned generating companies, National Power and PowerGen, had been counted ahead of today's 10am deadline for applications.

Advisers to the float reported a steady flow of completed forms and cheques to receiving banks. They believe that a drawback of shares provisionally allocated to institutions may well be triggered.

Public applications must be for more than 2.5 times the 28 per cent of the float set aside for the small offer before the drawback is set in train.

The average application for the offer is £350. More than 1 million applications are expected in total.

The offer of the electricity supply companies last autumn received more than 12 million applications. But then people were allowed to seek shares in all 12 companies.

Only one application per person is permitted for a package of shares in both generators.

Making a mint in drugs

By COLIN CAMPBELL

FISONS, the diversified pharmaceutical, scientific equipment and horticulture group, reports "great success" with one of its drugs in Germany because it was given a mint flavour.

"If people want flavoured drugs so they taste better, we can make raspberry, pineapple, strawberry..." John Kerridge, chairman, said.

Fisons' pre-tax profits in 1990 rose from £169 million to £230.2 million, and net earnings by 20 per cent to 26.3p a share. The final dividend of 4.65p (3.85p) makes 7.5p (6.2p) for the year.

Mr Kerridge said potential buyers continue to ask about buying the group's horticulture division, "but it makes reasonable profits and has a legitimate role in our business profile", he said.

Lilley to end duopoly between BT and Mercury

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE duopoly shared by British Telecom and Mercury Communications in United Kingdom telecommunications is to end.

In a White Paper, Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, yesterday set out proposals for a reform that will allow customers to acquire telecoms services from competing providers using a variety of technologies.

He also announced price caps on British Telecom charges intended to benefit both business and domestic customers. The changes go well beyond proposals contained in a government consultative document published last November.

Mr Lilley said the government would henceforth consider all applications to carry telephone services over fixed links according to their merits. He said: "We will grant licences unless there are specific reasons to the contrary."

Cable-television companies and mobile-telephone operators will be encouraged to offer a full range of competing telephone services linked into wired networks. Within five years, most customers should be able to select which carrier to use for trunk calls.

In exchange for concessions on call packaging and provision of cable television services, BT has dropped its threat to force a reference to the monopolies commission.

Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, described the White Paper as a "satisfactory outcome. It's a good deal for customers. It's going to make BT more competitive."

BT was satisfied with the provisions on rebalancing, he said. The company had won more flexibility, guarantees that there would be no featherbedding for other companies, and no separate international price capping.

The changes were welcomed by Mercury. Peter van Cuylenburg, chief executive, said Mercury would be able to reach new customers through cable operators, the opportunity of equal access, under which callers will be able to select the trunk carrier, and through mobile telephones.

Because of provisions in the White Paper, Mercury should receive favourable treatment in gaining equal access.

British Rail Telecommunications, which has the largest private business telephone network in Britain was equally enthusiastic. Martyn Hart, marketing director, said: "Equal access will enable us to offer competitive long-distance services via our national trunk network."

The Union of Communications Workers said the White Paper would lead to the "wholesale invasion" of UK communications by overseas operators, and attacked the government for failing to use the opening of the UK market as a bargaining counter to win opportunities for British telecoms companies overseas.

The White Paper will also enable independent "retail" companies to bulk-buy telecommunications capacity and sell it in packages to business or domestic customers.

Leading article, page 15
One-side draw, page 27

ECGD short list named

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE government has picked its short list of bidders for the short-term business arm of the Export Credits Guarantee Department, the official provider of export insurance.

Peter Lilley, trade secretary, who named the companies invited to tender for the department's Insurances Services Group, said the part

privatisation would be by means of a competition under normal competition rules.

The short list is: Trade Indemnity; Assicurazioni Generali, the Italian insurer; Cobar of Belgium; a consortium comprising Eagle Star and the German insurer Gerling; NCM of Holland; and Sun Alliance.

TAX RETURN OR RETURNED TAX?

If you, like me, suffer from being a high rate taxpayer, take it from me you don't have to invest offshore to shelter tax.

Now there's a way of sheltering your hard earned cash from the taxman with full Government blessing.

Let me put you in the picture.

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Benlox gives warning of losses

BENLOX, the tiny industrial holding company that unsuccessfully bid £1.9 billion for Storehouse in 1987, said its 1990 results would show "very substantial" losses.

The group, whose shares have been suspended at 8p since April, made a statement at the request of the London Stock Exchange after shareholders had reported concern about the lack of information.

Bob Hanks-Drielsma, Benlox chairman, said the group expects to finalise the 1989 and 1990 accounts soon. Bank debts have been reduced to below £1 million and more reductions are expected.

Vantage pays £10m in merger

Jupiter Tarbutt Merin, a privately owned fund manager, has reversed into Vantage Securities, the quoted investment trust. Vantage is paying £10.7 million for Jupiter, financed by 11.6 million new Vantage shares at 92.1p each.

Vantage shares have been suspended at 86p. Vantage's preliminary results for the year to end-December show a marginal decline in earnings per share to 3.51p and a 32.9 per cent decline in net asset value per share to 88.3p.

Willis Corroon ends venture

Willis Corroon, the insurance broker, is ending its Australian and Canadian joint venture arrangements with Johnson & Higgins, the American broker.

Willis Corroon's holding in the Australian and New Zealand companies is raised to 100 per cent, while its 20 per cent holding in the Canadian company is being sold to Johnson & Higgins.

BTP buys ICI outlet for £3.5m

BTP, the chemicals and industrial group, is paying £3.5 million for Avalon Adhesives, the liquid adhesive operations of Avalon Chemical, an ICI subsidiary, by a placing of 1.9 million new BTP shares at 180p each. BTP plans a 5.45p final dividend for the year to end-March, making 8.4p for the year, up 7 per cent.

Net asset value falls at Wates

Net assets per share at Wates City of London fell from 300p to 250p in the year to end-December. Net rental income fell marginally to £14.8 million, but pre-tax profits jumped from £10.2 million to £30.5 million. The 2.96p (2.62p) final dividend makes a 3.73p (3.39p) total.

Micrelec alert

Shares in Micrelec, the petrol station equipment group, fell 46p to 113p after the company announced that an expected increase in second-half sales had not materialised. The board said results for the year to March would fall below expectations.

Pizza chain sale

Grand Metropolitan is selling Perfect Pizza, its British chain, to Scots Hospitality, of Toronto, for an undisclosed sum, thought to be £5 million.

Recession helps push Volvo into £30m loss

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

VOLVO, the Swedish car maker, was hit hard by the recession in Britain, America and Sweden, its three largest markets, last year.

The company suffered a net loss of SwKkr327 million (£30 million), compared with a SwKkr6.65 billion profit in 1989.

The results were in line with expectations after the company announced a restructuring provision of SwKkr2.45 billion in the third quarter. The programme involves large scale redundancies, mainly in Sweden where labour costs are among the highest in the world.

Last year, the company reduced its workforce by 2,300 from a previous level of 70,000, and another 1,500 workers have already received redundancy notices this year. Total cuts are expected to rise to 5,000.

However, Volvo's loss is not merely a result of the restructuring programme. Sales were down from SwKkr91 billion to SwKkr83.2 billion, because of general economic decline in the company's principal markets and because of reduced market shares within those markets.

The downturn affected cars, and to a smaller degree, trucks. Total operating income fell from SwKkr4.82 billion to a SwKkr3.67 million, while the car division posted an operating loss of SwKkr855 million.

Most of the pre-provision earnings came from associated companies, in particular from Volvo's holding in Procordia, the pharmaceutical company. Total equity investments showed an increase from

SwKkr1 billion to SwKkr1.3 billion.

Most European car manufacturers have suffered during the last year, except for the German producers who benefited from strong domestic growth.

Volvo's problems, however, appear more severe than those of its competitors.

Philip Ayton, motor analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said: "In the short to medium term they need to sort out their cost problems. It is a problem of the cost of labour as well as the productivity of labour."

The European car industry is likely to suffer setbacks during this decade when Japanese car companies will be allowed less restricted access to the European market.

Last year, in an attempt to defend its position, Volvo forged a strategic alliance with Renault, the French state-owned car producer, under which both companies have a 45 per cent cross shareholding in their respective truck businesses, with smaller cross holdings in respect of the car divisions.

It is expected that the alliance, which cost Volvo SwKkr6.5 billion, will result in mutual cost saving within a few years.

Volvo was also at a disadvantage last year because it had not introduced a new model for some time. Later this year, the company is expected to introduce a mid-range model which is intended, eventually, to replace the current 200-range. Despite the loss, Volvo maintained the dividend at SwKkr15.50 per share.

Expamet drops 6% to £12.8m

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A SUBSTANTIAL downturn in second-half trading at Expamet International, the building products, security and industrial group, has resulted in a 6 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £12.8 million for the year to end-December.

Turnover rose 5.6 per cent to £139 million, with increases in the security and industrial divisions. The security operations held their profits steady, at £6.3 million, while the industrial division saw profits fall by £1.2 million to £2.5 million. The building division bucked the sector trend with profits up 10 per cent to £4 million.

A £4.9 million extraordinary charge relates to the costs associated with the closure of a number of subsidiaries. In 1989, the company recorded a £7.1 million extraordinary profit from the

disposal of subsidiaries. The rationalisation programme should be completed this year.

The interest charge rose to £4 million from £3.6 million because of additional borrowings taken on to finance a deferred portion of the £49 million consideration for the 1989 acquisition of Radionics. Interest cover fell from 4.5 times at the interim stage to 4.2 times at the year end.

Jeremy Beasley, the chairman, said: "Political uncertainty and the depressed economic environment have led to difficult markets so far in 1991. However, we are continuing to increase market share in our three business sectors and to ensure that our operations are run in the most cost-effective manner."

A final 6.2p dividend makes 10.38p for the year, 3.8 per cent up on the 10p for 1989.



Stepping down: Sir George will stay as Inchcape chairman

Turnbull to split Inchcape roles

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

SIR George Turnbull is to give up his chief executive role at Inchcape, the international business services and marketing group, in 1992. He plans to stay on as chairman, however, until 1997.

Charles Mackay, aged 49, chairman and chief executive of Inchcape Pacific, the Far East subsidiary, will succeed him as chief executive. Mr Mackay has been appointed group managing director from January 1, 1992, and will become chief executive later that year.

Sir George, aged 64, denies

Carlton appoints Edelman

By OUR CITY STAFF

MICHAEL Green is handing over the day-to-day responsibility at the top of Carlton Communications, the television to video services group, to Keith Edelman, currently managing director of Ladbroke Group.

Mr Green retains the job of executive chairman but the chief executive post will remain vacant, while Mr Edelman will be managing director from the end of the month. A spokesman for Carlton, which said at the end of last year it was considering splitting the top two roles, denied that the move had come as a result of institutional shareholder pressure.

"Keith will be taking over the day-to-day responsibility for the operating companies, allowing me as executive chairman to concentrate on the long-term strategy and structure of Carlton," Mr Green said.

that the move is a response to the shift in City opinion against public companies combining the roles of chairman and chief executive. "I always felt there was no harm in having the positions combined while the group was being reorganised. It enabled us to make the necessary changes more quickly, for example. But once that was done, and we had a strong, healthy company, it would be time to split the roles. We took that decision last October."

Sir George added that Mr Mackay had been earmarked as his successor since his arrival from Chloride in July 1986.

The appointment will be accompanied by a reorganisation of Inchcape's worldwide operations. From January 1, the group will be structured on a global basis in the areas of motors, marketing and distribution, services and resources. Each will report to a director in London.

Pearson sells stake in Elsevier

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PEARSON, the publishing to china conglomerate, has abandoned its strategic alliance with Elsevier, the Dutch publishing group, by selling its 22 per cent stake to Goldman Sachs for placing in the market. The bought deal, at a discount of about 8 per cent to Elsevier's market price, will bring Pearson £13 million and a profit of £84 million.

Lord Blakenham, chairman of Pearson, which publishes the Financial Times, said it wanted to redeploy the funds into businesses under its direct control. Initially, they will be used to cut borrowing, which were £410 million at the end of 1990. Pearson shares gained 23p to 749p.

Elsevier said it would retain for now its 8.8 per cent stake in Pearson, most of which it acquired in the initial exchange in September 1988. Cornelia Alberti, Elsevier's finance director, made it clear, however, that Elsevier would rethink the stake in its ambitions to extend into English language publishing. "Either it should be considerably more, or less," he said.

The alliance was forged after The News Corporation, which owns The Times, built up a 20 per cent stake in Pearson, which has since fallen sharply. Robert Maxwell's interests also had a substantial stake in Elsevier at that time, since sold.

Pearson and Elsevier aimed to co-operate in building joint interests and gave themselves seven years to agree a full merger. The latter was abandoned a year ago and little has come from co-operation.

Lord Blakenham said yesterday: "Elsevier is a marvellous company, but it has not been possible to find a means of turning the engagement into the marriage we had hoped for."

Derek Terrington, publishing analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, said dissolution of the alliance was inevitable. "The motives were entirely defensive, though dressed up in strategic clothes. There were no commercial fruits but Pearson shareholders have done well out of the investment."

The sale will have little effect on Pearson's quoted earnings. Next month the group is expected to report pre-tax profits between £240 and £260 million for 1990.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Polypipe seeks £13.6m to fund acquisitions

POLYPIPE, the manufacturer of plastic plumbing and drainage systems, is raising £13.6 million through a cash placing and open offer at 150p a share on a one-for-7.25 basis. The proceeds will be used to help fund three acquisitions made recently and to provide working capital and meet capital expenditure requirements for the three companies. Polypipe also is negotiating to acquire a fourth business.

The company unveiled pre-tax profits ahead from £5.08 million to £5.27 million in the six months to end-December. Sales edged up from £33.7 million to £33.9 million. Earnings per share climbed from 4.92p to 5.05p. The interim dividend was raised to 1.2p, against 1.0p last time. Polypipe shares eased 2p to 163p.

86% stake for BDDP

BOULET Dru Dupuy Petit, the French advertising group that made a recommended bid for Broad Street, the ailing public relations firm, now speaks for 85.79 per cent of Broad Street. The bid valued Broad Street shares at 1p and the firm, which includes Lynn Frank, Financial Dynamics and City PR, at £500,000. BDDP had already owned 38.67 per cent of Broad Street.

Ashley buys German firms

ASHLEY Group, the food retailer and window blind group, has acquired two German window blind businesses for DM16.5 million (£2.7 million). Ashley is buying the business of Haller, a distributor based near Stuttgart, and the share capital of Boden Jalousien, a producer based near Frankfurt. Ashley paid £3.5 million on completion and £2.2 million is due next February 28.

Templeton down 1%

TEMPLETON, Galbraith & Hansberger, the fund management group, has reported pre-tax profits down 1 per cent to \$63.1 million for the year ended December 31.

Total funds under management at year end were \$15.9 billion compared with \$17.5 billion at the end of 1989. Of these assets, \$1.9 billion are additions through mutual fund sales and new funds. Redemptions were \$1.4 billion and market depreciation was \$2.1 billion. A final dividend of 10 cents per share makes a total of 15 cents for the year, an increase of 15 per cent over 1989.

Clinton rises 46%

CLINTON Cards, the greetings card retailer, increased pre-tax profits by 46 per cent to £5.02 million in the year to January 26, on sales up 54 per cent to £59 million. But the group's shares fell 12p to 262p after Don Lewin, chairman, said prospects were difficult to predict. Earnings per share went up 22 per cent to 20.4p. The final dividend is 3.75p for a total of 5.25p, an increase of 24 per cent.

Watmoughs ahead 14.4%

WATMOUGHS, the printing group, made pre-tax profits of £11.6 million in 1990, an increase of 14.4 per cent on 1989. Sales rose 18 per cent to £102 million. Interest payable more than doubled to £2.24 million. Earnings per share rose 9.2 per cent to 32.45p and the final dividend is 7.5p, making a total for the year of 10.25p, an increase of 20 per cent. Shares rose 5p to 365p.

Jardine decision soon

HONG Kong's stock exchange said a decision on whether Jardine Matheson Holdings had breached listing rules would be taken soon by the listing committee. Francis Yuen, exchange chief executive, said the committee would look at whether Jardine had bought back its own shares knowingly and intentionally, but the exchange said his remarks were not meant to confirm or imply Jardine had breached regulations.

Mr Yuen said if Jardine was willing to divest itself of some of the holding repurchased through Connought Investors, the move would affect the exchange's decision.

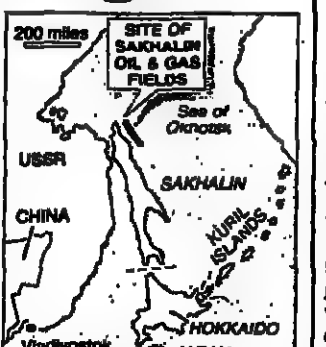
Russia offers oil deal to foreigners

By OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE Soviet Union is planning to award a \$4.5 billion contract to a consortium of international oil companies to develop an offshore oil and gas field north of the Sakhalin Islands, off the eastern coast of Siberia near Japan.

The country needs to develop its oil reserves, since output is falling at a rate of about 10 per cent a year.

Anatoly Cherny, director general of Sakhalin Oil and Gas, said Mitsui and Co, Marathon and McDermott International, are preparing a feasibility study, but there are other American bidders that he declined to name. The fields contain 630 million barrels of oil and 140.5 billion cubic metres of gas. Based on a



seven-year depletion period, this would mean an output of about 200,000 barrels per day. Although this is less than 2 per cent of Soviet oil production of just over 11 million bpd last year, the deal is significant because it allows participation of foreign companies.

PolyGram's rise to £108m lifts Philips

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

POLYGRAM, the Philips subsidiary and the world's third largest record company, unveiled a 7.2 per cent rise in net profits to 357 million guilders (£108 million) in 1990. Sales rose 27.9 per cent to Fl.525 billion.

The results present a glimmer of hope in an otherwise gloomy outlook for Philips, which last week reported a record Fl.4.2 billion loss. Polygram, in which Philips has an 80 per cent stake, is part of the group's consumer electronics division and, judging from the results, one of its strongest income generators.

PolyGram's main record labels include Deutsche Grammophon, Decca and Polydor. Decca's *Pavarotti*, *Domingo* and *Carreras* in

Concert achieved a world sales record for a classical music album last year, with more than 5 million sold. Another PolyGram album, *The Essential Pavarotti*, sold more than 1 million. The company's popular recordings include albums by Elton John and the Scorpions.

PolyGram claims to have increased its world market share from 15 per cent to 17.5 per cent during the year. The company said sales were "positively influenced" by the acquisitions of A&M Records and Island Records.

The company proposed a dividend of Fl.0.5 per share, its first dividend as a quoted company, after 20 per cent of the equity was floated in December 1989.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

ADMIRAL (Fin)
Pre-tax: £3.28m (£2.65m)
EPS: 19.4p (16.2p)
Div: 2.88p, mkg 4.2p

Last time's total dividend was 3.5p. Turnover increased by 33 per cent to £21.2m. Cash position at year-end was £2.81m (£2.3m).

WYVEALE GARDEN (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.10m (£1.64m)
EPS: 8.6p (6.3p)
Div: 2.25p, mkg 3.375p

Last time's total dividend was 2.7p. Turnover £18.25m (£16.27m). Board confident of continued growth in sales and profits.

METAL BULLETIN (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.84m (£1.41m)
EPS: 12.2p (10.1p)
Div: 4.5p, mkg 6.8p (6p)

Turnover £10.8m (£9.97m). Extraordinary dividend of £28,900. Board says 1991's profits will be based towards second half.

FREEMAN GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £2.51m (£2.48m)
EPS: 26.6p (28.0p)
Div: 5.5p, mkg 8.5p

Last time's total dividend was 8.1p. Profits were boosted by an exceptional item of £197,000. Turnover climbed to £77m (£52.8m).

INTERLINK EXPRESS (Int)
Pre-tax: £3.1m (£3.58m)
EPS: 12.17p (14.28p)
Div: 4.125p (4.125p)

Turnover grew to £25.5m (£23.5m). Board reports that the outlook for business in Britain continues to be encouraging.

PACER SYSTEMS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.58m (£1.20m)
EPS: \$0.18 (\$0.14)
Div: 3.5c, mkg 8.5c (6c)

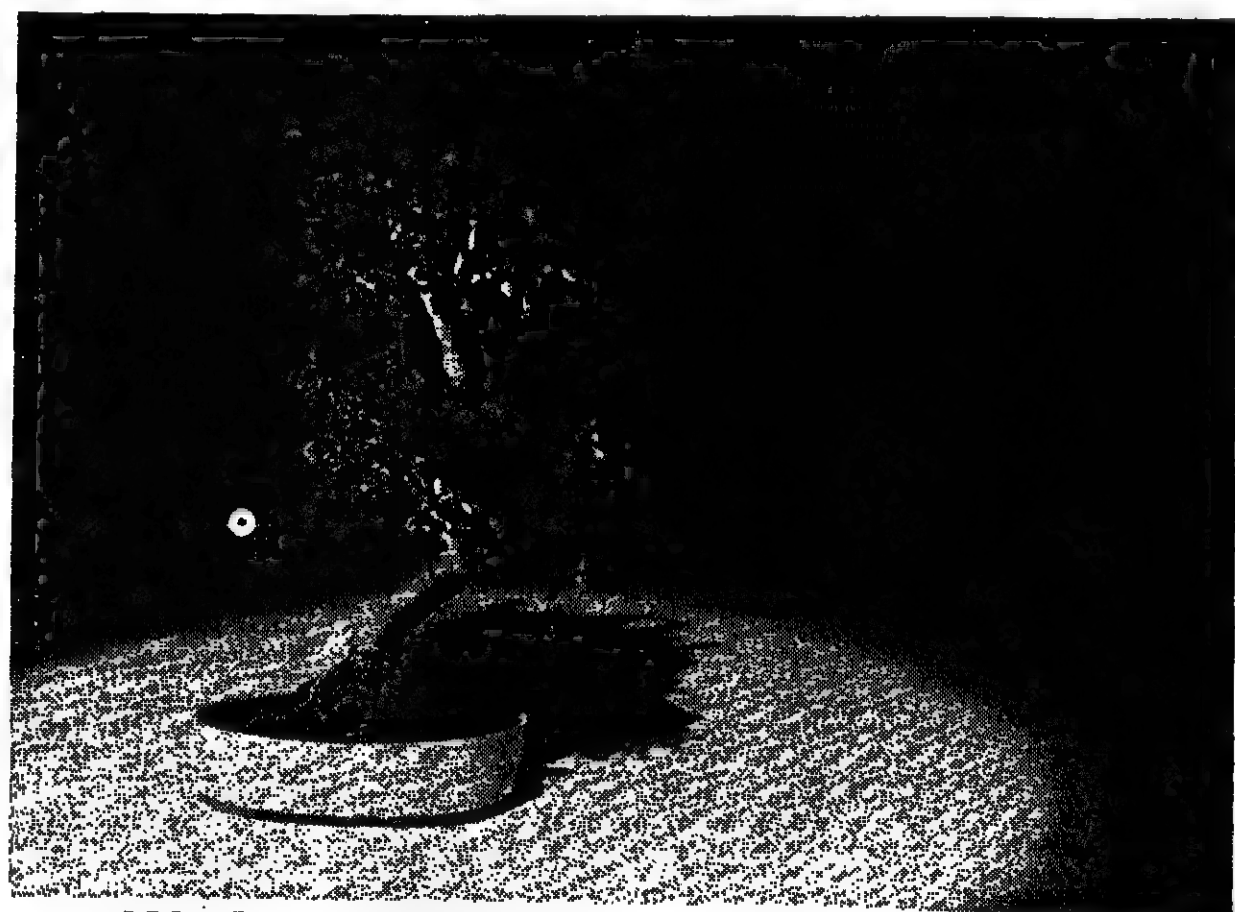
Turnover advanced 11 per cent to \$27.5m. Orders stood at \$65.8m (\$52.8m). Pacer's military markets remain strong.

ROSS GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £389,000
EPS: 4.3p (LPS: 5.0p)
Div: 0.75p, mkg 1.25p

Company made a pre-tax loss of £485,000 last time. Turnover advanced to £20.1m (£18.14m). There was no dividend last year.

WHITTINGTON (Fin)
Pre-tax: Loss £247,000
LPS: 2.1p (EPS: 4.0p)
Div: Nil (1.2p)

Last time's profit was £1.28m. Extraordinary loss of £5.52m, mainly relating to the sale of JW Bonser.



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Problem Solved

Midland begins a new chapter

Sir Kit McMahon's swift departure from Midland Bank is being seen in the City as the penalty frequently paid by those business leaders who place too many eggs in a single strategic basket. Sir Kit's solution to the problems of Midland had a grand sweep to it. The ill-fated plan to merge with Hongkong Bank had many attractions for both parties. But when it fell apart last year, Midland was left exposed with far too many long standing problems still unresolved.

When he arrived at Midland, with a welcome mat supplied by the Bank of England, Sir Kit could not claim that his inheritance was exactly unblemished. Midland's management had taken some highly questionable strategic decisions, notably the disastrous acquisition of Crocker Bank in America. The unwinding of the Crocker involvement left Midland's balance sheet weighed down by the heavy ballast of non-performing third world debt arranged by the US bank. Some early asset disposals helped. But with the benefit of hindsight the sale programme did not go anything

like far enough. Latterly the disposal route to self-improvement has been effectively shut off through lack of buyers at anything like acceptable prices.

Tactical thinking was little better and an unhealthy level of costs, especially in the domestic banking operations, was left barely scratched for far too long. Sir Kit would say that corrective action on costs was in hand while the Hong Kong links were being strengthened in preparation for a full marriage. But he is at odds here with most analysts. It was not until last year that the axe was wielded in a meaningful way.

Even today, with some of the benefits of reorganisation starting to appear, Midland's trading profit per employee is substantially below that of Barclays. Yet at the top line, Midland's employees manage to generate more income than their Barclays counterparts.

Sir Kit has also been under fire for retaining the roles of both

chairman and chief executive for far too long when Midland had demonstrably far too many problems for one man to deal with. Again, Sir Kit's preference for the Hong Kong merger provides at least part of the explanation. In effect he had been keeping the chief executive role under his own wing in order to pass it to Hong Kong bank chief William Purves when the merger was completed.

Yet Sir Kit's failures were nothing like sufficient to justify a City-led campaign against him that reached ferocious intensity. Though the recession has led to bad debt provisions for Midland and its high street rivals on a scale that was unimaginable 18 months ago, the bank's balance sheet is lacking only by reference to the generally superior standards of British banking pro-

dence. On any international scale, Midland is well financed. In direct comparison to leading American and Japanese banks it is exceptionally so.

It must be said too that though Midland has not provided against its third world debts on quite the scale of Barclays or NatWest, it is possible that they have provided over generously. Some of the clearers have managed to dispose of large amounts of third world debt on terms which allowed sizeable write-backs of provisions.

By his decision to cut Midland's dividend, a sensible and realistic conclusion, and to depart in three months, Sir Kit has made the task of his successors much easier. They are able to build on the first signs of recovery in the domestic bank, where trading profits have begun

to rise. The new management team is untainted by past mistakes, and well-placed to restore external confidence.

Financially, Midland has large amounts of tax relief to look forward to, while the end of the treasury book mismatch should alone boost profits by more than £100 million this year. This year will be tough, but the next chapter in Midland's saga is at last hopeful.

Saatchi safe

Saatchi and Saatchi's efforts to avert financial disaster could so easily have ended in tears. As things have turned out, the solution will be painful but not terminal.

The group's 20 principal bankers have made their position clear. Unless the proposals now before shareholders are accepted, Saatchi will run out of credit and the receivers will be called in. In

theory, the credit crunch will not come until 1993, when Saatchi would be forced to redeem an ill-fated Euroconvertible issue at a cost of £21 million.

In practice, the bankers would have lost their confidence and their patience long before then. Robert Louis-Dreyfus, who came in last year as chief executive, correctly decided to go for a swift solution rather than allowing Saatchi's to be painted into a corner.

It shares the pain evenly and shareholders at least are guaranteed a stake in a solvent business. Euro preference and UK preference stock will be replaced by ordinary shares and there will be £60 million of equity finance, £5 million of which will be invested by Saatchi senior management.

Shareholders should give the scheme their blessing. They cannot expect much by way of dividends in the next few years. But there are still some excellent advertising businesses inside the group whose quality will eventually shine through. At these levels Saatchi shares are flat on their back and could prove a worthwhile investment in time.

DUOPOLY is dead. The government's long-awaited decision to end the two-horse race in the telecommunications market between British Telecom and Mercury carries implications for the future of telecoms in Britain, and for the current players, especially BT.

The outcome of the duopoly review is largely a matter of Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, sticking to his last. The review's conclusion demonstrates the government's refusal to be swayed. Some telecom analysts saw the review as a sham: they were convinced that key policy decisions on the ending of the duopoly were taken before the government's discussion document was published last November, and that, accordingly, yesterday's outcome was hardly a surprise.

Mr Lilley would deny this; but the thrust of the White Paper, *Competition and Choice: Telecommunications Policy for the 1990s*, is undeniably close to that of the consultative document. The government wanted to end the duopoly; the duopoly is to be ended. The government wanted to be able to offer new applications to run trunk networks; the government is to do so. The government wanted to maintain regulatory price constraints on BT; they are to be maintained.

BT, though, does not view the outcome of the review as a loss. Iain Vallance, BT's chairman, said yesterday that BT would not proceed with its threat to refer the whole issue to the monopolies commission; an indication that the company does not regard the outcome as so disastrous that it has to take this drastic and risky step.

Indeed, Mr Vallance believes the review has accepted four key principles: rebalancing of tariffs; greater price flexibility; no feather-bedding of competitors; and no price-capping of international calls. Yet each of the principles

A one-sided draw spells duopoly defeat for BT



Will not be swayed: Peter Lilley, the trade secretary

identified by Mr Vallance has conditions attached. There is acceptance of rebalancing, but not until mid-1993. There is greater flexibility on tariffs, but only in stages over the next five years. No feather-bedding, but equal access to telecom systems as soon as possible. No price-capping internationally, but a 10 per cent cut in international call prices. If that looks anything like a draw, it is a draw in favour of the government, and of Sir Bryan Carsberg, director general of Ofel, the industry's regulator. The review offers little relief for BT from Sir Bryan's merciless scrutiny, which has hardened into a public row between him and Mr Vallance. Indeed, Sir Bryan made it plain yesterday that he saw a continuing role

for regulation. In a statement on BT pricing, he saw the duopoly review as a crucial turning point between the first phase for the industry of what he called "managed competition" towards one of "more open competition".

But even the limited, regulated concept of a move "towards" only "more open" competition is likely to alter significantly what has been BT's pre-eminence in the market. BT's market share is in excess of 95 per cent; even with the high investment cost and long lead times of setting up new businesses in the sector, such a level of dominance can hardly be what the government wanted when it originally privatised BT back in 1984.

Cable and Wireless' Men-

cery, up to now BT's only competitor, has taken seven years and more than £1 billion to manage a market niche of about 3.5 per cent. Clearly, despite British Rail being the first company to respond eagerly and humbly to yesterday's announcement, any major change in BT's market share will be a long time coming.

It is equally apparent that Mr Lilley is determined to achieve a change in the market. That will mean over the longer term a shift in BT's fortunes: it cannot but help losing significantly from the impact of increased competition. Equal access alone could have a devastating impact on BT's market share; when equal access was introduced in America, it caused AT&T's share to fall 23 per cent.

Analysts believe any such change is unlikely to affect BT profits materially for at least three years. Last month, quarterly results showed that the recession was already impacting growth, and though pre-tax profits were 13 per cent higher at £737 million, BT made it clear it was looking for further real savings.

This week's cut of 6,500 telephone operators' jobs was only the latest evidence of that, coming on top of job cuts last year, and with more to come in 1991. Sir Bryan praises BT's efforts to reduce its costs by improving efficiency, but analysts such as Salomon Brothers believe BT could reduce its 240,000 staff by as many as 100,000 in the long term, saving up to £1.5 billion annually.

BT is likely to try to seek new commercial opportunities to improve its revenue, but the job cuts will continue. If the telecom market is to be buffeted by the blast of the winds of full competition, then BT is likely to face a bumpy ride over the next few years.

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

Fisons keeps healthy habit

FISON'S habit of turning out annual growth rates of 20 per cent plus is legion, and results for last year are no exception.

While there must come a time when Fisons loses its magic touch, that looks like being some way off yet. The company came through last year, when recession was snapping at industry's heels, much as expected and pre-tax profits were £230.2 million (£169 million). The 1990 return on capital employed was 37.3 per cent (32.9 per cent).

The total dividend is up 21 per cent to 7.5p (6.2p), with a 4.65p (3.85p) final. In the past year, the shares have outperformed by 29 per cent. Higher profits partly follow improved productivity, partly from buying VG Instruments from BATs, and partly from Treasury management.

On a net debt of £116 million, and helped by one building arm of rights funds, Fisons generated £900,000 of net interest received. It also used its high cashflow balance to take advantage of relatively high British interest rates, although this year could see Fisons become a payer of

net interest. There were higher profits from the core divisions - pharmaceutical, scientific equipment and horticulture.

Profit estimates of £260 million for this year put the shares at 441p on a rating of 14.8 times. For its proven ability to perform on the profit, dividend and share price fronts, Fisons looks cheap.

Raine Industries

REGIONAL housebuilding is clearly something of a curse's egg. Monday brought news of a 13 per cent increase in unit sales at Persimmon which, despite its northern origins, now has a wide spread of regional subsidiaries.

But it is a different picture at Hassall Homes, the housebuilding arm of Raine Industries. In the six months to end-December, unit sales at Hassall, which operates in the Midlands, North and Scotland, fell 13 per cent.

Hassall's performance was just one reason Raine's in-

terim figures were mildly disappointing. Pre-tax profits of £8.2 million were 27 per cent down on the period in 1990, although the interim dividend was held at 2p.

The figures should inject a note of realism into a stock market that is in danger of getting carried away with anticipation of better times to come.

With the outlook for Raine's non-housebuilding businesses far from encouraging, a decline in profits looks inevitable this year, with £20-21 million pencilled in.

At 128p, that puts the shares on a multiple of about 13. High enough for now.

HAYS, as the owner of the biggest recruitment agency for the construction industry, always knew it was important to have other strings to its bow.

So the recession-led slump in profits at Montrose, which dragged the personnel division's profits down from

£10.3 million to £6.7 million in the six months to last December, has been compensated for elsewhere.

Hays is lifting its interim dividend 13 per cent, underlining the board's view that a recession is good for business, despite the virtual standstill in the half-yearly pre-tax figure at £27.5 million.

The 28 per cent surge in the commercial profit to £6.9 million reflected the rest of industry's urgent need to save costs.

The document exchange network is pulling in new customers by the minute, the records and data storage operations advanced by more than 30 per cent, while Data Express rose 26 per cent.

Personnel, having maintained its margins, should pick up the minute construction turns the corner and, meanwhile, can expect a boost from the Kuwaiti rebuilding programme. Analysts look for a marginal improvement to £58 million pre-tax this year, with good growth further on, leaving the shares, at 122p, or 12 times earnings, with solid, medium term attractions.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Bit different at The Mirror

IF THE senior executive of a prospective public company were to be shown the door suddenly, within weeks of a flotation on the stock market, with the possibility of union unrest thrown in for good measure, most merchant bank advisers would be urging at least a temporary delay in the proceedings. But Ian McIntosh, head of corporate finance and deputy chief executive at Samuel Montagu, the issuing house for Mirror Group Newspapers, insists that that scenario will make no difference to MGN's intended stock market debut, due to take place in late April or early May. Thus, six or eight weeks from impact day, some City eyebrows have been raised following the departure this week of Roy Greenslade, Mirror editor, his replacement by "acting editor" Charles Wilson, former editor of *The Times*, and currently in New York trying to buy the *New York Daily News* for Robert Maxwell, owner of MGN, and a resolution passed by in-house National Union of Journalists members, criticising their proprietor. "I suppose newspapers are a bit different," concedes McIntosh. "This is obviously something we have been aware of but it is not going to upset our plans." The flotation, also being handled by Smith New Court and Clifford Chance, is expected to value MGN at up to £600 million,

with between 40 and 45 per cent of the company being offered for sale.

MIDLAND, long proud of its advertising slogan as "The Listening Bank", is having to face up to a new nickname. Wits in the Square Mile, wary of its future prospects, have dubbed it "The Listing Bank".

Kept on ice

AN ANTARCTIC expedition is being planned by Vickers Defence Systems early next year, to recover one of the first tracked vehicles ever made. The vehicle is a motorised sledge, built by Vickers, and believed to be 600 ft under water in McMurdo Sound, where it fell while being unloaded from a ship on an expedition led by Captain Robert Scott. The sledge, which Peter McKenzie, of Vickers Defence Systems PR department, described as more like a tank, was one of three taken to the Antarctic by Scott. Next year's expedition might now be expanded to

include the recovery of the 80-year-old fuselage of a monoplane, one of the first aeroplanes built by Vickers. The monoplane was used in the Australian expedition, led by Sir Douglas Mawson, in 1911.

McKenzie hopes that the rescue operation will be a joint venture with the British armed services. Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commander of the 7th Armoured Brigade, still on duty in the Gulf, and author of a biography of Captain Oates, who died with Scott in the Antarctic, has expressed an interest in participating. The brigadier "is a friend of mine," says McKenzie. "He has asked to be kept informed in the hope that he might be able to take part."

Star turn

ONLY a brave man would buy shares because the planets told him to. This has not, however, deterred Jules Lewicki, a former *Time Out* journalist turned market forecaster, who claims to have predicted four recent stock market trends on the strength of inter-planetary movements. Such cycle theory is popular in America, usually with those who either believe that the world is flat or claim to have been visited by aliens, but is proving slow to catch on in Britain. Alarmingly, Lewicki, who has not yet aspired to a push Bond Street address despite his "inside" knowledge (his office is in Epsom, Surrey), claims to have built up a loyal following among

professional financial advisers and a handful of private investors who deal in traded options. He is now predicting March 16, or thereabouts, as the date when share prices will go into a sharp decline. Why that date? Because the earth will then be midway between Jupiter and Saturn. You have been warned.

Avon calling

LIFE goes on for the City's old hands, even if they no longer earn their living within the narrow streets of the Square Mile. And, if anything, life as a regional stockbroker has considerably more to offer these days - a view shared by Sandy Evans, who this week joined Albert E. Sharp in Bristol as an associate director. Evans, aged 50, a long-serving private client broker, started his career with Roger Mortimer, his uncle's firm, in 1958, straight from school, and in 1970 joined George Henderson, later to become Henderson Crosthwaite. "Those were the days when your word was your bond," says Evans, who in 1982 unsuccessfully ran for membership of the stock exchange council before leaving London to join A. H. Cobbold in Southampton. "Today you hide behind a phone and a television screen. It's no longer a matter of facing a chap eyeball to eyeball." He was, until he accepted Sharp's offer, regional director of Cobbold Roach in Taunton, just down the road from his Bridgewater home.

CAROL LEONARD

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Through Hays Personnel, over 170,000 permanent and temporary vacancies were filled in 1990.

Whilst in Commercial Services, Britdoc provides a countrywide overnight business mail service. Originally designed for the legal profession it has expanded to include over 20,000 subscribers operating in areas such as retailing, banking and the travel industry.

It is the breadth of our three core activities that gives us strength, even in the present financial climate, and ensures that we are well placed to take advantage of better conditions when they come. One area of activity supports another, contributing to our Group's continued steady growth.

INTERIM FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS Half Year to 31 December 1990 (unaudited)

	1989	1990	
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	£27.3M*	£27.5M	+1%
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY SHARE	4.70P*	4.74P	+1%
NET DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY SHARE	1.15P	1.30P	+13%

*PROFORMA ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE CAPITAL STRUCTURE FOLLOWING THE LISTING IN OCTOBER 1989 HAD EXISTED SINCE 1 JULY 1989. IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A COPY OF THE 1991 INTERIM STATEMENT, PLEASE CONTACT DAVID BUCKLEY, HAYS PLC, HAYS HOUSE, MILLMEAD, GUILDFORD, SURREY GU2 5SH. TELEPHONE 0432 302023. THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY FOCUS REGS & CO WHO IS AUTHORIZED TO CARRY ON INVESTMENT BUSINESS BY THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Hays
THE BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Going up	Down
1	British	Property		
2	Travel Partners	Building Roads		
3	FR Group	Motors/Aircraft		
4	Coast Group	Transport		
5	Wish Water	Water		
6	Young 'A'	Breweries		
7	Benetton	Chemicals/Fab		
8	Ne-Swift	Industrials E-K		
9	Body Shop	Drugs/Stores		
10	Booker	Food		
11	Wolsey	Industrials S-Z		
12	Dela	Electronics		
13	Walker, Greenbank	Industrials S-Z		
14	Pepper	Property		
15	Chaplin & Hill	Industrials A-D		
16	McAlpine (Africa)	Building Roads		
17	Bank of Ireland	Bank/Discount		
18	BTR	Industrials A-D		
19	Galfrid	Building Roads		
20	Fernell Elton	Electronics		
21	Chatter Coas	Industrials A-D		
22	Greyson	Property		
23	Burghorn	Electronics		
24	Acrodis	Building Roads		
25	Brown (N)	Drugs/Stores		
26	Stagh Estates	Property		
27	Tonkin	Industrials S-Z		
28	Meyer Int	Building Roads		
29	Bund	Paper/Print/Adv		
30	Marka Spence	Drugs/Stores		
31	Unilever	Industrials S-Z		
32	Westmough	Paper/Print/Adv		
33	Uni Biscuits	Food		
34	Taylor Woodrow	Building Roads		
35	Perry	Motors/Aircraft		
36	Johanna Massey	Industrials E-K		
37	Poor Corp	Property		
38	Traco	Food		
39	Mile Gp	Industrials L-R		
40	Microfilm Recor	Electronics		
41	IMI	Industrials E-K		
42	Ferguson Int	Paper/Print/Adv		
43	Jones & Shipman	Industrials E-K		
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total				

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend					
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91	High	Low	Bank	Price	Change	%

SHORTS (Under Five Years)					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

UNDATED					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

INDEX LINKED					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91	High	Low	Bank	Price	Change	%

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares surge higher

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 25. Dealings end March 8. Contango day March 11. Settlement day March 13.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1990/91	High	Low	Bank	Price	Change	%

BREWERIES					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

BUILDING, ROADS					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

ELECTRICITY					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

FINANCE, LAND					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

FINANCIAL TRUSTS					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

FOODS					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

DIAPERY, STORES					
1	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
2	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
3	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
4	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
5	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
6	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
7	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
8	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
9	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
10	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

(a) Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY MARCH 6 1991

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MONEY MARKETS

D RATES	OTHER STERIL
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[illegible]

COMMODITIES

8480.0-8481.0 1071.0-1072.0 338375 May 157.80 157.70
8475.0-8480.0 12144 Vol: 485

هكذا آمن المسلم

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small enough to care."**

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JAL

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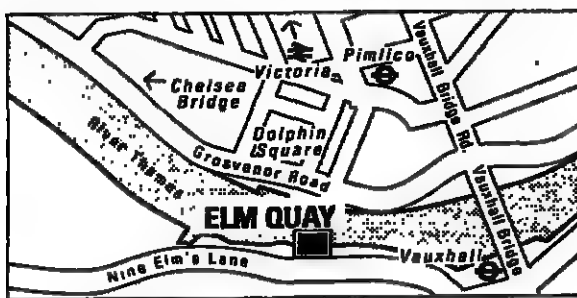
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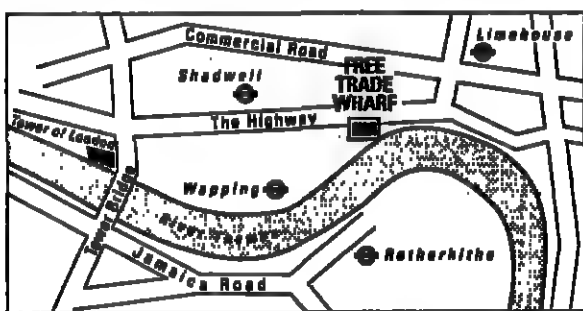
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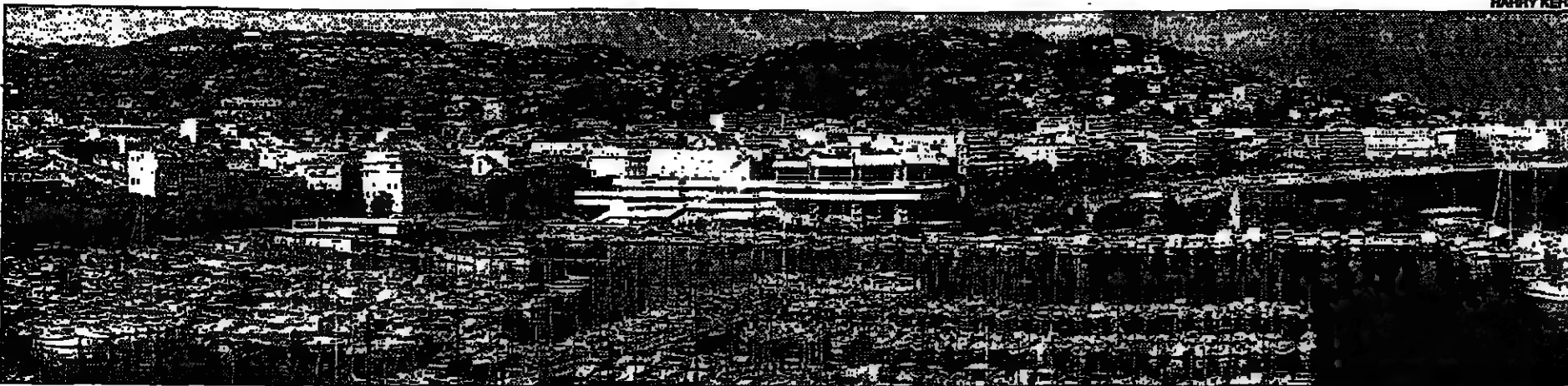
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Casting off: the Palais des Festivals, Cannes. When the single European market has been established, formal barriers to the free flow of international investment should disappear

The organisers of the second international commercial property festival of MIPIM (Marché International des Professionnels de l'Immobilier) in Cannes this weekend must be relieved that the Gulf war has ended in time to boost attendance and enable delegates to concentrate on international issues.

Last year's inaugural event attracted 2,625 delegates from 22 countries, 825 companies and 201 exhibitors. This year 4,000 delegates, 859 companies and 221 exhibitors are expected.

The reconstruction of eastern Europe will top the agenda again as events in Europe progress in the wake of German reunification. There are new opportunities for attracting investment and for making contacts with overseas companies keen to do business with British operations.

Writing about the festival, Philip Lewis and Bob Bowden, of the agent Conrad

Plain sailing in Cannes

Property experts meeting on the French

Riviera are pulling down international

barriers and hoping for a big boost in

business. Christopher Warman reports

Riblat, say last year's event showed that the real estate market in Europe, and to a certain extent throughout the world, now operates across national frontiers. "However, the idiosyncrasies of each country's lease structure, rent review and yield pattern will affect where the smart money will move during the 1990s," they say.

When the single European market has been established, formal barriers to the free flow of investment should disappear. Mr Lewis and Mr Bowden explain that, for example, the Bundesbank will not be able to veto the decision of a German insurance company wishing to invest in Britain or France, as is now the case. In principle, this should be good news for Britain, which has always

suffered from the absence of a "level playing field", but in fact the playing field has recently looked fairly level. The influx of Japanese, Swedish and American money and latterly funds from France and Germany have far exceeded investment abroad by British groups.

Mr Lewis and Mr Bowden say the London office market, still for many the only sector worthy of consideration, has been badly hit by the eco-

nomist decline. "However," Mr Lewis and Mr Bowden write, "the problem of over-supply is not so acutely felt by overseas players when they can still buy a prime City or West End site with a solid covenant for 25 years at an initial yield of 8.5 per cent, compared with 5 per cent in Paris."

For companies considering moving to Britain, they say London is likely to remain the world financial centre because

of its expertise, whereas Frankfurt could become the European centre. The property surplus has resulted in static or falling rents, and good-quality space is available in prime locations at attractive lettings.

At this year's MIPIM event, in the Palais des Festivals from Saturday to Tuesday, topics will include regional and urban development, financing international real estate, the needs of American companies in Europe, Japanese investment strategy, and eastern Europe.

Since last year's festival, Chesterton, the property consultant, has announced a joint venture with Sopre, a leading French firm of property advisers. The new company will promote further strategic expansion in Europe.

Britain will have 44 exhibitors. Delegates include Sir Bob Reid, the British Rail chairman, Sir Idris Pearce, the president of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Geoffrey Brown, the managing director of Speyhawk Development, and Roger Howson, of the Heron Corporation.

The John Lelliott construction group, already involved in projects in Czechoslovakia, France, Spain and Portugal, has recently decided to participate.

John Lelliott, the group chairman, says success in the present property climate will come to companies that operate in a niche market that invest in the marketing and development of new services at events of this kind. He says: "We will have a presence at MIPIM in order to represent international construction consultancy services, especially as we are active in mainland European markets, where a non-traditional type of contract is preferred."

IN THE MARKET

□ Eurotunnel Developments has announced proposals for Market Plaza, a 326,000 sq ft covered shopping centre on the site of the cattle market in Ashford town centre in Kent. The company, the property investment and development subsidiary of Eurotunnel, which is attending the MIPIM market at Cannes, intends to start work late next year once the cattle market has been moved to its new site at Waterbrook, owned by Eurotunnel Developments.

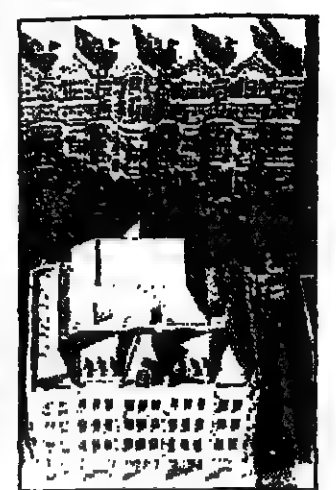
The new scheme, designed by architect Bernard Enrie, will be integrated with the existing County Mall development, and will provide a focal point for the town centre. The plan contains 1,500 car parking spaces.

□ Trafalgar House Brooklands has planning consent for another of its proposals for the 350-acre Brooklands site in Weybridge, Surrey. Elmbridge district council has given consent for three office buildings totalling 49,000 sq ft on the three-acre Paddock

site, near the old control tower where the company's project management team is based. The buildings will provide 22,000 sq ft, 16,500 sq ft and 10,600 sq ft, and the two smaller buildings can be linked. The Paddock also has outline permission for warehouse use. The building would be suitable for a headquarters office and warehouse scheme. The joint agents are Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks and Robert Neil & Co.

□ An innovation by Comic Relief this year is the design of a 6ft nose to "decorate" buildings. Only 1,000 are available, at £1,000 each plus VAT, and all the money goes to Comic Relief, which has raised more than £45 million in five years. The Sainsbury supermarket company has bought ten for its stores, and one adorns the Blackpool Tower and the Palace Theatre. A nose has now appeared in London Docklands, shining from the News International building.

□ A landscaped square is a feature of MEPC's £11 million offices and shops plan at Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane, Leeds. The development, topped out last week, is part of a scheme to regenerate a three-acre site near the financial and commercial centre. In the foreground of the model of the development (right) is Ambler House, providing 14,750 sq ft of offices behind Victorian facades. Across the square is the six-storey No 1 Trevelyan Square, which will have 57,000 sq ft of offices. The agents, Knight Frank & Rutley and Elliott Son & Boynton, are quoting rents of £20 a square foot for Trevelyan Square and £18 for Ambler House.



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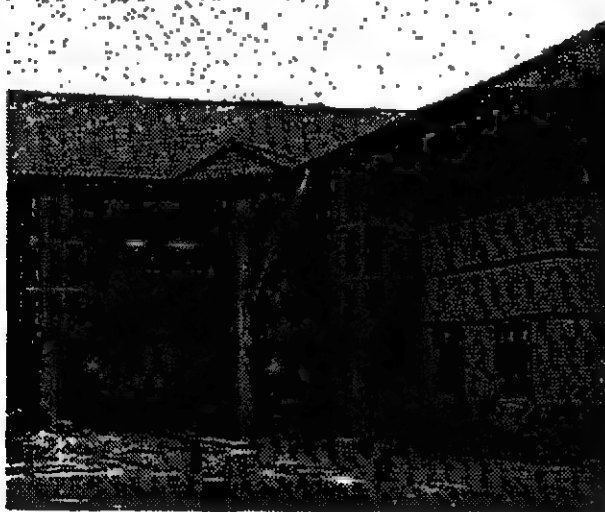
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Tenant can occupy land by its servants or agents

Wandsworth London Borough Council v Singh

Before Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Mr Justice Scott Baker

[Judgment March 5]

A small open space improved and maintained by a local authority for local residents' leisure use was "occupied for the purposes of a business carried on" by the local authority within the meaning of section 23 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

As tenant of the space the local authority had security of tenure of it under the provisions of Part II of the 1954 Act and was entitled to be granted a new tenancy of it.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the landlord, Dr Harbajan Singh, from the judgment of Judge Sumner in Wandsworth County Court on July 10, 1990 in which he granted Wandsworth London Borough Council's application for the grant of a new tenancy of land at St John's Hill, Battersea, London.

Section 23(1) of the 1954 Act provides: "... this part of this Act applies to any tenancy where the property comprised in the tenancy is or includes premises which are occupied by the tenant and are so occupied for the purposes of a business carried on by him or for those and other purposes."

Mr Edward Denehan for the landlord, Mr Alistair Craig for the council.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that the case concerned a piece of open land used for at least 13 years by local inhabitants for leisure and recreation.

It occupied some 500 square metres. There were gates to it which were locked from time to time. The space was laid out with trees, benches and borders.

In 1983 the council had spent some £13,000 improving it. As tenant, the council sub-let the area but visits were made to it by council employees on a regular basis.

The landlord's case, rejected by the judge, was that the council's tenancy of the premises involved such little activity and the degree of physical presence and control by the council was so small that in all the circumstances it was not sufficient to constitute "occupation" for the purposes of section 23(1); see *Trans-Britannia Properties Ltd v Derry Properties Ltd* (1986) 1 EGLR 511.

Mr Denehan propounded the test that the court should apply was whether in all the circumstances there was a sufficient degree of presence and manifestation of control to constitute occupation by the tenant.

The issue of "sufficiency" of physical presence and control had not been considered by the courts in any case where the only occupation of the premises was that of the tenant by its servants or agents without there being any subtenants or licensees.

Mr Justice Scott Baker agreed. Solicitors: Conraths, Wandsworth; Mrs S. G. Smith, Wandsworth.

If it was shown that the tenant, having possession of the premises and having given to no person the right to exclude him from any part of the premises, was by himself, his servants or agents physically present and exercising control for the purpose of a business or activity carried on by him, then it would seem likely at least that an observer knowing the facts and applying the ordinary and popular meaning of the phrase "occupied for the purposes of a business" would hold that tenant to be the occupant.

It was accepted that a tenant who had a right to possession might choose not to go into actual occupation and that "occupation" in section 23 meant actual occupation in the popular sense of that word. But physical occupation did not have to be continuous provided that the right to occupy continued.

The case was a clear one. The council was physically present and exercised control of the premises by its servants or agents. An ordinary man, knowing the facts, asked: "Who is in occupation of this open space?" would no doubt answer: "The council is."

Mr Denehan's submission that that approach was not open to the court following the *Trans-Britannia* case, was rejected.

There, Lord Justice Slade was dealing with subtenants let into occupation of garages. It was not a decision compelling the court to hold that the council was not in occupation of the open space. Mr Justice Scott Baker agreed.

Srin v Headley

Before Lord Justice Purches, Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Leggatt

[Judgment February 28]

The doctrine of *donatio mortis causa* (gift by reason of death) was anomalous but anomalies did not justify anomalous exceptions.

If due account was taken of the present state of the law with regard to mortgages and charges in action it was apparent that to make a distinction in the case of land would be to make just such an exception. Subject to the general requirements in all such cases, land was capable of passing by way of a *donatio mortis causa*.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Mrs Margaret Sen, against the dismissal by Mr Justice Mummery (The Times December 7, 1989; [1990] Ch 728) of her claim that she had been made a *donatio mortis causa* of a house in London, having by constructive delivery of the title deeds.

Mr David Hodge for Mrs Sen; Mr Ian Leeming, QC and Mr Nigel Thomas for Mr Headley.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that *donatio mortis causa* was a relic of the past, but it was not anomalous in law, both for their immunity to the Statute of Frauds 1677 and the Wills Act

1837 and as exceptions to the rule that there was no equity to perfect an imperfect gift.

But both Lord Hardwicke and Lord Eldon, while making to regret the doctrine, established exceptions of it beyond a simple gift of a chattel by its delivery: the former in *Seaford v Bailey* (1744) 3 Atk 213, to a gift of money secured by a bond, by delivery of the bond; the latter, in *Duffield v Elwes* (1827) 1 Bl (NS) 497, to a gift of money secured by a mortgage of land, by delivery of the mortgage deed.

What had never been before been directly decided in England was whether the doctrine of *donatio mortis causa* applied to a gift of land by delivery of the title deeds. Lord Eldon thought that it did not, a view which had since generally been assumed to be correct.

The facts were that a Mr Vivian Hewitt, the owner of a substantial detached house in the London Road, Ealing, had by a deed of gift, dated December 3, 1986, when he was very ill, Mrs Sen asked him what she should do about the house if anything happened to him.

He replied: "The house is yours. Take it. It is yours. The deeds are in the steel box."

Mr Hewitt died intestate and his next of kin were defendants to the action.

There were three general requirements for a valid *donatio mortis causa*. First, the gift had to be made in contemplation, although not necessarily in expectation, of impending death.

Second, the gift had to be made upon the condition that it was to be absolute and perfected only on the donor's death, being revocable until that event and ineffective otherwise.

Third, there had to be a delivery of the subject matter of the gift, or the essential *indicia* of title thereto, which amounted to a passing with dominion and not mere physical possession over the subject matter.

In *Duffield v Elwes* (at p538) Lord Eldon's emphasis of the distinction between the absolute estate of the mortgagee and the conditional estate of the mortgagor was necessarily presupposed an opinion that the absolute estate could not have passed by delivery of the title deeds. That opinion was based on the provisions of the Statute of Frauds.

But those provisions apart it was not suggested that delivery of the title deeds would not have been a sufficient transfer of the underlying property, any less than in the case of a bond or a mortgage.

It could not be doubted that title deeds were the essential *indicia* of title to land. Moreover, on the facts

found by the judge, there had been a constructive delivery of the title deeds to the property equivalent to an actual handing of them by Mr Hewitt to Mrs Sen. It could not be suggested that Mr Hewitt did not part with dominion over the deeds.

The questions which remained to be answered were whether Mr Hewitt partook with dominion over the house and, if he did, whether land was capable of passing by way of a *donatio mortis causa*.

It appeared that the need for there to be a passing with dominion was first identified in cases where the subject matter of the gift was a locked box and its contents. In *Strick v Treasury Solicitor* ([1951] Ch 298) a similar need was recognised where the subject matter of the gift was a share in a company.

Without in any way questioning that need, their Lordships thought it appropriate to observe that a passing with dominion over an intangible thing such as a share in a company was necessarily different from a passing with dominion over a tangible thing such as a locked box and its contents. It was thought that in the former case the passing with dominion over the essential *indicia* of title would *ex hypothesi* usually be enough.

It was agreed that the doctrine was anomalous. Anomalies did not justify anomalous exceptions. If due account was taken

of the present state of the law in regard to mortgages and charges in action, it was apparent that to make a distinction in the case of land would be to make just such an exception.

A *donatio mortis causa* of land was neither more nor less anomalous than any other. Every such gift was a circumvention of the Wills Act.

Why should the additional statutory formalities for the creation and transmission of interests in land be regarded as an insuperable obstacle? The only step which had to be taken was to extend the application of the implied or constructive trust arising on the donor's death from the conditional to the absolute estate.

Accordingly, their Lordships held that land was capable of passing by way of a *donatio mortis causa* and that the general requirements for such a gift had been satisfied. They therefore allowed Mrs Sen's appeal.

Solicitors: Stephen Fidler & Co; Edwin Coc.

Releasing funds from restraint order

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Morris

A restraint order was analogous to a *Mareva* injunction (asset-freezing order) and similar considerations applied on an application for the release of certain sums for specific purposes.

Where, therefore, the applicant had obtained leave to appeal against his conviction of offences under the Drug Trafficking Act 1986, and against a confiscation order made in consequence, the court would grant the release of a specified sum from funds held under a restraint order for the purpose of providing for his legal expenses in prosecuting the appeal.

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THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that like a *Mareva* injunction, a restraint order could operate in two distinct stages: prior to judgment when funds were frozen against the possibility of a judgment, and post judgment, when they were frozen to enable execution to take place.

If leave to appeal against conviction was given, there was an obvious possibility that both the restraint order and the confiscation order would fall away if the appeal succeeded. Funds would therefore be released to prosecute the appeal.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Sunday trading restrictions are not disproportionate to socio-cultural aims of rules

Union Départementale des Syndicats CGT de l'Alsace v Sidel Conforama and Others

C-312/89

Criminal Proceedings v A. Marchandise and Others

C-332/89

Before O. Dues, President and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, M. Diez de Velasco, J. Joliet, F. Grévisse and M. Zales.

Advocate General W. van Gerven (Opinion November 22, 1990)

[Judgment February 28]

The restrictive effects on trade which might stem from national rules governing the opening hours of retail premises, and which reflected certain political and economic choices, did not seem to be disproportionate to the aim pursued by those rules which was to ensure that working hours were arranged as to accord with national or regional socio-cultural characteristics.

The European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it for a preliminary ruling by the Tribunal de Grande Instance (Regional Court), in the *Conforama* case, and by the Cour d'Appel (Court of Appeal), Mons, Belgium.

Under the provisions of article L. 221 of the *Code du Travail* (Labour Code) in France, the weekly rest period to be granted to employees, a minimum of 24 consecutive hours, had to be allowed on Sunday.

On the ground that the defendants were opening their shops on Sundays after 12 noon, the Tribunal de Grande Instance, in the *Conforama* case, and the Cour d'Appel, Mons, Belgium, found that the defendants had committed an offence under the provisions of article L. 221 of the *Code du Travail*.

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Human Rights Law Report

Strasbourg

Conviction on unexamined statements is breach of rights

Deltis v France

(Case No 26/1989/186/246)

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, M. Diez de Velasco, J. Joliet, F. Grévisse and M. Zales.

Advocate General W. van Gerven (Opinion November 22, 1990)

[Judgment December 19]

In a unanimous judgment the European Court of Human Rights held that France had violated paragraph 3(d) taken together with paragraph 1 of article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Mr Deltis had not received a fair trial as his criminal conviction had been based on statements by an alleged victim of a robbery and a friend, who had been interviewed by the police but had been not examined by the courts trying the facts.

Article 6 of the Convention provides: "1 In the determination of ... any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair ... hearing ... by a tribunal ..."

"2 Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law."

"3 Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights: ... (b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence ... (d) to examine witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him."

Mr Deltis, a French citizen, was born in Guadeloupe in 1953. In May 1983 the Paris Criminal Court sentenced him to three years' imprisonment for robbery in the Paris Metro.

In his decision based on the evidence given at the hearing by a police constable who had witnessed the attack but who, in the company of the victim and a friend of hers, had arrested Mr Deltis. The latter had not been formally confronted with the two alleged witnesses, who did not attend the trial although they had been summoned by the prosecution.

In September 1983 the Paris Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal brought by the applicant, who claimed that he had been wrongly identified as the person who had committed the offence. In doing so, it refused his application to have the victim, her friend and two defence witnesses called.

In October 1984 the Court of Cassation dismissed Mr Deltis's appeal on points of law.

The application, made on August 4, 1984, was declared admissible by the European Commission of Human Rights on September 8, 1988. Having attempted unsuccessfully to achieve a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a report on October 12, 1989 in which it established the facts and expressed the unanimous opinion that there had been a violation of paragraph 1 of article 6 taken together with paragraph 3(d). It referred the case to the Court on December 14, 1989.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

As the guarantees in paragraph 3 of article 6 were specific aspects of the right to a fair trial set forth in paragraph 1, the Court considered the applicant's claim under paragraphs 3(d) and 1 taken together.

Although the victim of the offence and her friend did not testify in court, person, they were the only witnesses who had been interviewed by the police and whose statements were given in an autonomous interpretation, since their statements, as reported orally by the police constable, did not seem to be disproportionate to the aim pursued by those rules which was to ensure that working hours were arranged as to accord with national or regional socio-cultural characteristics.

The European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it for a preliminary ruling by the Tribunal de Grande Instance (Regional Court), in the *Conforama* case, and by the Cour d'Appel (Court of Appeal), Mons, Belgium.

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Parental joint care and control order is most exceptional

In re J (a Minor)

Save in most exceptional cases it is not appropriate in matrimonial proceedings for an order to be made giving a father and mother joint care and control of their child. The vice of such an order would be in the majority of cases that the child might not know where he was really based.

The Court of Appeal (Mr Justice Scott Baker and Lord Justice Ralph Gibson) so stated on February 21 when allowing

an appeal by a father from an interim order made by Judge Robert Brown in Wandsworth County Court on February 5, 1991.

The court nevertheless approved terms agreed by the parties ordering, *inter alia*, that the parents have joint custody care and control of the child.

MR JUSTICE SCOTT BAKER said that the child's mother and father had agreed terms for the court to consider.

Those terms, that were intended to prevail for a significant time, left the child in no doubt where she was going to be. Moreover, there were advantages to the parents in reflecting the agreed order in the terms of the order.

Although in general it was most inappropriate for such an order to be made, in the instant circumstances, it was in the child's best interests for the court to approve the agreed terms.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Leggatt) so held on February 26, allowing an appeal by Alexander Richard Morris from Mr Justice Mummery who had refused his application to vary a restraint order in order to release a specified sum for him to prosecute his appeal against his conviction.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that like a *Mareva* injunction, a restraint order could operate in two distinct stages: prior to judgment when funds were frozen against the possibility of a judgment, and post judgment, when they were frozen to enable execution to take place.

If leave to appeal against conviction was given, there was an obvious possibility that both the restraint order and the confiscation order would fall away if the appeal succeeded. Funds would therefore be released to prosecute the appeal.

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If leave to appeal against conviction was given, there was an obvious possibility that both the restraint order and the confiscation order would fall away if the appeal succeeded. Funds would therefore be released to prosecute the appeal.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted

The Milroy can complete treble

By MICHAEL PHILLIPS

THE Milroy, a wide-margin winner of his last two races, can complete a treble in the Bet With The Tote Novices Chase Qualifier at Folkestone today.

The forecast going on the chase course at the Kent East is good to firm and that will suit the Milroy perfectly as his Doncaster and Windsor victories were both gained on precisely that going.

The Milroy is trained by Oliver Sherwood who remains adamant that fast ground is a prerequisite for the eight-year-old, even though his much more talented elder half-brother, Ten Plus, revelled in the soft.

Following a couple of set-

backs at Newbury and Cheltenham, The Milroy beat Cot Lane by a distance at Doncaster in December and the following month was particularly impressive in beating Brave Sentata by 20 lengths at Windsor.

Undertaken by that defeat, connections of Brave Sentata have decided that it is worth their while taking up the challenge again. But a 7lb weight swing in their favour does not look sufficient.

The main threat to The Milroy may come from What A To Do, who finished first when dividing Gingerland and Country Cap over three miles at Huntingdon last time and will be well suited by today's slightly longer trip.

The Milroy, can initiate a double on Derby in the first division of the Somerset Court Novices Hurdle.

A winner on the Flat at Newmarket and Pontefract as a three-year-old when trained by Jeremy Tree and of three races on the Flat in France last year, Derby clearly has the ability to make a successful jumping debut for his current handler Simon Sherwood.

While Osborne and Oliver Sherwood will have hopes of winning the second division of the Somerset Court Novices Hurdle with Seventh Lock, I feel that they will be dashed by Richard Donwoody on Shades Of Peace, who had good form on the Flat in France where he was trained by Andre Fabre.

Even if What A To Do fails to beat The Milroy at Folkestone, his owner, John Sumner, should still have cause to celebrate because Bit Of A Clown, who is trained by his daughter, Victoria McKie, is named to win the Richmond Maiden Chase.

Victory for Bit Of A Clown would be no more than he deserves after showing consistent form at Warwick, Hereford and Towcester where he was placed on each occasion.

Although he was certainly defeated by the margin of his defeat at Warwick last time when he was beaten two-and-a-half lengths by Party Politics, he will not have to cope with so talented as Nick Gaselee's Gold Cup contender today.

The programme on the north Yorkshire course could easily begin with Applauseforscience (2.15) winning there again for George Moore.

Michael Hammond, Moore's former stable jockey, now turned trainer, may fare even better by landing a double with The Malkida (3.45) and First Shadow (4.45).

The Malkida, my selection for the Peter Vaux Memorial Trophy, has already won over today's course and distance a second time and was possibly unlucky not to have recorded a second success there on New Year's Day when he fell at the second last fence while still holding every chance.

Home secretary warns of limited government help

By MICHAEL SEELY, RACING CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, yesterday warned the racing industry not to expect too much of government help when the industry is in the grip of a recession.

Speaking at the Tote's annual lunch in London yesterday, Baker struck much the same note as Lord Hesketh in the recent House of Lords debate. He also said that the government had a hard look at themselves if they were to cope with the demands of the next decade, Baker said: "That might mean some cuts affecting the smaller racecourses, and selling off some assets."

The home secretary also doubted the worth of a further wide-ranging enquiry into future financing, and added that no early decision was likely on the future of the Tote.

"There are many eminent experts deliberating over the state of racing," he said. "When the committee produces their full report I will be giving very careful consideration to the recommendations which they make."

"I do not want to pre-empt the committee's conclusions, and of course the government will, in due course, respond to their report. But I must say I do not think that another wide-ranging enquiry on top of the home affairs committee's enquiry would be the right way to solve the problems of the industry. The Tote monopoly the bookmakers were doing more harm than good."

The Jockey Club appears to be at odds with the Racecourse Association, said Lord Wyatt. "And certainly the uninformated way they bash the bookmakers would win their co-operation."

"I believe the bookmakers can be persuaded to cough up more, but only after careful analytical research presented, such as a threat, but in a friendly style through the well-run Levy Board."

Lord Wyatt had been surprised by recent criticisms of the Tote's profits and claimed that until the government allowed a Tote monopoly the bookmakers would always be in the ascendancy.

Champion opts for Sondrio

By MICHAEL SEELY

PETER Scudamore has elected to ride Sondrio in Tuesday's Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham. Barry Hills has therefore booked Richard Dunwoody for Scudamore's rejected mount, the former favourite, Nomadic Way.

To complete the big-race moves, Charlie Brooks has moved up the services of Jamie Osborne for the much-improved Black Humour, who has been backed from 50-1 to 16-1 in the past week.

Scudamore had originally intended to partner last year's runner-up, Nomadic Way, but has changed his mind since the six-year-old was beaten for the second time this season at Haydock on Friday.

"It wasn't easy choosing between Sondrio and Black Humour," said the racing champion. "Sondrio's the form horse and he's trained by Martin Pipe so I'm obliged to ride him."

Talk at yesterday's Tote lunch, Barry Hills said there were no obvious excuses for Nomadic Way's Haydock run. "He was very lucky ground. Perhaps it would have been better to have had more use made of him. We'll just have to hope for the best."

On the Gold Cup front, Graham McCallum yesterday said that he intended standing by last year's winner Norton's Coin rather than partner Neale Doughty's rejected.

Explaining his decision, McCallum said: "I think you could forget his trial. He obviously wasn't right and ran very well before that behind Celtic Shot at Cheltenham."

CATTERICK BRIDGE

By Mandarin	By Thunderer
2.15 Applauseforscience.	2.15 Applauseforscience.
2.45 BIT OF A CLOWN (exp).	2.45 Bit Of A Clown.
3.15 Pogo.	3.15 Pogo.
3.45 The Malkida.	3.45 The Malkida.
4.15 Sassy Bonze.	4.15 Sassy Bonze.
4.45 First Shadow.	4.45 Arctic Paddy.
5.15 Singing Sam.	5.15 Singing Sam.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.45 BIT OF A CLOWN (exp).
Brian Beel's selection: 4.45 CARO WOOD.

Going: good

2.15 HORNS NOVICES HURDLE (21.475: 2m) (21 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

FORM FOCUS SKELETON POST 30.30 (11 runners)

1. AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft).

2.45 RICHMOND MAIDEN CHASE (22.210: 3m 1f 80yds) (13 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

FORM FOCUS SKELETON POST 30.30 (11 runners)

1. AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft).

2.30 PEASMARSH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21.903: 2m 6f) (20 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

2.30 PEASMARSH CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (21.903: 2m 6f) (20 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

3.45 PETER VAUX MEMORIAL TROPHY (Handicap Chase: 22.848: 3m 1f 80yds) (5 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

FORM FOCUS SKELETON POST 30.30 (11 runners)

1. AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft).

4.15 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 22.075: 2m) (11 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

FORM FOCUS SKELETON POST 30.30 (11 runners)

1. AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft).

5.15 GRUNWICK STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (21.719: 2m) (14 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

FORM FOCUS SKELETON POST 30.30 (11 runners)

1. AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). AMY14 (11) good to soft, previously easily beat 2nd horse in 2nd race at Doncaster (2m, good to soft). LE JOURNEUR one-paced 2nd and 3rd at Doncaster (2m, good to soft).

3.30 FAIR ROSAMUND HANDICAP CHASE (22.588: 3m 2f) (14 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

4.0 CLIFTONVILLE HANDICAP CHASE (22.599: 2m) (5 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

4.30 SOMERFIELD COURT NOVICES HURDLE (Div 1: 21.463: 2m 100yds) (12 runners)

1. AMY14	2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15
2.15	3.15	4.15	5.15	6.15	7.15	8.15	9.15	10.15	11.15	12.15	13.15	14.15	15.15	16.15	17.15	18.15	19.15	20.15	21.15	

TRAINERS				JOCKEYS			
Winners		Placers	Per cent	Winners		Placers	Per cent
W. McGee	3	9	26.7	D Murphy	3	24	29.1
D Murphy	3	15	26.7	J Frost	3	15	20.0
S Bickel	4	16	26.7	J White	3	16	18.2
J Gifford	27	113	23.0	B Powell	3	16	18.2
O Sherrard	9	40	22.5	B Powell	3	15	18.2
M Goss	4	21	19.0	C Kennedy	3	29	10.3
R O'Sullivan	3	17	17.5				

McGehee, Tels No

(Only qualifiers)

Lewis to prevail if he can live up to his own billing

Haugen could be stripped of title

BOWLS

Steele defeats Rugby

Vigor and Price both recovered from losing positions
Results, page 41

SNOW REPORTS

SCOTLAND
Calderdale snow level, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 2,000ft. Ruess: upper, middle and lower, complete, new snow on firm base. Access roads open; most chertfests and chertfests open. Lash: upper, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 1,500ft. Ruess: upper and lower, complete, wet snow on firm base. Access roads open; chertfests closed. Lash: upper, 1,500ft; vertical runs, 700ft. Ruess: main complete.

Forecast: After report high winds tomorrow will see calmer conditions with winds starting light, freshening up by afternoon. Drizzle will be possible, but lighter on, and there will be periodic light fog over all the areas. Gusty gales will be at 2,500ft and above. Heavy snows possible. Freezing levels will be at the same time as the rain. Staying mild but unsettled, with rain at times.

© Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

All-purpose cycling squad takes to the road



Sexes unite in attack on records

He sprang a surprise yesterday when he said that he would tackle the British one-hour track record and, possibly, the world figures at Leicester this June.

David Baker, winner of the National Trophy cyclo-cross series, Gary Colman, a track champion, Paul Hinton, of New Zealand, and Barrie Clarke, who mixes cyclo-cross with road racing, complete the team.

RUGBY UNION

Clarke gets opportunity to lock horns with Shelford

Mark sevens extra fillip

Rosslyn Park sevens given an extra fillip

Juniors at the Stoop Memorial ground on March 22. The Argentinians, visiting France for an international tournament, will also play Midland colts at Moseley on March 19.

Campion beaten only once

Rugby may have experienced a moderate season as far as results were concerned but they turned out 14 teams, which is the most in the school's history.

BADMINTON

Chinese poised to upset Troke

European doubles champion, have been drawn against the seeded Dutch pair, Eline Coene and Erica van de Meuvet, in the first round.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

Yeo chips away at records

Pro-Motion has produced a resource guide which includes information on topics as varied as sailing and aromatherapy, as well as advice on *emotional* *support* *groups*.

THE TIMES
SPORTS SERVICE

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SPORT

Hanley is chasing his American dream

By RICHARD WEATHERELL
AND KEITH MACKLIN

ELLERY Hanley, arguably the best rugby league player in the world, is caught between making a fortune – perhaps as much as £50,000 a match – in helping to launch American football in Britain, and making a lesser sum seeing out his contract with Wigan rugby league club.

The Monarchs, who will be based at Wembley, announced yesterday that Hanley, who has captained Great Britain on a record 19 occasions, would be joining them next month for the inaugural season of the World League of American Football (WLAF).

It is maximum publicity at minimum risk. If Hanley succeeds, all will be well; if not, little will have been lost because the ambitious and audacious move will have sold seats.

However, Wigan's directors were not sure of when Hanley would be released. They met last night to discuss ways of avoiding

a contractual dispute with their captain.

Monarchs claimed Hanley would join them in training camp on Sunday and would play his first game on Easter Sunday against New York Knights. However, Wigan insisted they would hold Hanley rigidly to his contract, which expires in October, and they expected him to play for them on Sunday against Bradford Northern in the quarter-finals of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Maurice Lindsay, the Wigan chairman, said: "Clearly, Hanley's contractual obligations must be exclusively to Wigan, particularly with so many important games between now and the end of the season. We are not against Hanley playing American football in the close season and, in fact, would rather have him doing that in this country than stunging it out in rugby league in Australia."

Wigan do not appear to want Hanley to become the subject of a tug-of-war between Monarchs and themselves, with the in-

evitable result of the necessity for Wigan to take legal action against the player for breach of contract.

Wigan, while willing to search for an acceptable compromise, are unlikely to agree to Hanley playing American football on Easter Sunday since the holiday weekend is the most vital of the season, when Stanes Bitter championship issues can be settled.

American football's interest in persuading Hanley into changing sports dates from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final last year. Several National Football League (NFL) representatives saw him lead Wigan to a devastating victory over Warrington. They also watched the Great Britain series against Australia in October and November.

A tentative offer from Bob Arum, the American boxing promoter, on behalf of the Los Angeles Rams, had already been put to Hanley. He was interested but his commitment to Wigan – with still a year to go on his contract – led him to reject this. Three months ago, the Mon-

archs approached Hanley. Since then, a formula has been worked out between Wigan, Hanley and the Monarchs that is acceptable to all parties.

Stewart Parkinson, the Monarchs team manager, said Hanley had signed a standard WLAF contract, which calls for a basic salary of \$20,000 (about £10,500) for position players. Bonuses could take a WLAF player's annual earnings to \$100,000.

Parkinson described Hanley as a "latter-day Bo Jackson" – a reference to the player who combines playing American football for the Los Angeles Raiders and baseball with the Kansas City Royals.

Ambrose Menzies, the sports promoter, has taken an interest in Hanley and the Monarchs' offer. He said yesterday that he had checked through his American contacts, notably the ABC television channel, to establish whether the WLAF was a serious proposition.

Once he was satisfied, discussions had taken place between John Fitzpatrick, Hanley's law-

yer, and Frank Platt and Fishwick, the Wigan lawyers. Clearance from Lindsay had been sought and given.

Hanley is not yet a true Monarch. Whether he is to be part of the 36-player squad will be decided when Larry Kenman, the Monarchs' head coach, sees him next week. Indeed, Hanley may never be a Monarch because of the enormous leap from rugby league to American football. However, if he did meet Kenman's approval, he would be regarded as on loan from Wigan for this season and only next year would he become a professional American footballer.

But if any leading British sportsman could make the leap to American football, it is Hanley. At the age of 29 and with 33 full Great Britain appearances, he could be anxious for a new challenge. He has indicated that this would be his last full season in rugby league.

His residence in taking numerous tackles during a game will be essential. His ability to gain ground after an initial tackle

already sets him apart from others in rugby league. This will be an essential part of his game, if he gains a place as a running back.

Ideally, Hanley would have shown his skills at the training camp in Orlando that started last week but the presence of some of the British press postponed that. Instead, he will meet his prospective team-mates at Wembley on Monday.

An intriguing aspect of the deal is Hanley's non-relationship with the media. Despite being captain of the Great Britain side which defeated Australia at Wembley last October, his words were not heard or read. This is a leading difference with the open house which journalists find in the United States, and one that the British press in Orlando found.

How far Hanley's commitment is to American football, the Monarchs and the WLAF may come at the end of April. The Monarchs' game against Raleigh-Durham at Wembley starts 24 hours after Hanley could be raising the Challenge Cup on behalf of Wigan.



Hanley: due to join Monarchs

Liverpool wait for Toshack to resolve dilemma

By IAN ROSS

JOHN Toshack is expected to announce today whether or not he wishes to accept an invitation to succeed Kenny Dalglish as the football manager of Liverpool. There were signs last night, however, that he would reject the chance of a return to Anfield and pledge his immediate future to another of his former clubs, Real Sociedad.

Toshack is believed to have discussed the possibility of returning to Liverpool, whom he served with distinction as a player during the 1970s, when he spoke to Noel White, the Liverpool chairman, and Peter Robinson, the club's chief executive.

The former Welsh inter-

national forward, who was dismissed by Real Madrid in November, returned to his Swansea home earlier this week, increasing speculation that his appointment as Liverpool's eighth post-war manager was imminent.

His return to Wales to fulfil what was described as a long-standing business appointment prompted Liverpool hastily to cancel a meeting of the club's board of directors scheduled for Anfield on Monday morning.

Toshack, aged 41, yesterday refused to confirm or deny that he had entered into talks with the League champions.

"Yes, I have heard what has been said in the last few days

but I have nothing to say," he said.

Although he recently committed himself to a five-year contract with Real Sociedad, he does not assume the position of team coach there until July 1. Indications are that Liverpool would be prepared to discuss the question of compensation with the Spanish first division club.

Sociedad have been aware of Liverpool's interest for more than a week. They have made it clear that they will seek substantial financial remuneration if Liverpool's attempts to lure Toshack back to English football after a seven-year absence succeed.

About £1.5 million are believed to be the salary Toshack would collect during the course of his contract with the San Sebastian club but, privately at least, Liverpool are confident of negotiating a far lower settlement if the need arose.

Toshack readily acknowledges the debt he owes to Sociedad, who allowed him to leave to join Real Madrid in 1989, and who stepped forward with an immediate offer of employment after his dismissal.

White said that Liverpool's search for a manager would be enthusiastically conducted until a man deemed suitable to succeed Dalglish, who retired from football 13 days ago, was found.

"Our commitment to appoint the right man has surely never been in any doubt," he said. "We are religiously pursuing the matter in every direction and there is no weakening in our resolve to give our supporters the very best."



Manzanillo welcome: The wind is enough to disturb the smallest hairstyle as Valderrama, second from top, finds on Montpelier's arrival in Launceston

Robson can galvanise United

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BRYAN Robson, who has already led Manchester United to the final of the Rumbelows Cup, tonight sets out on a more significant mission. In his first appearance in Europe for six years, he will be in charge of his club's attempt to qualify for the last four of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Unavailable because of injury, Robson missed the first two rounds of the competition and was also absent during the defeat by Everton on Saturday. It was confirmed yesterday by Alex Ferguson, though, that he will return for the first leg of the quarter-final against Montpellier at Old Trafford.

It is as though United have been waiting until their captain had fully recovered from

a damaged Achilles tendon before staging an occasion which could genuinely rekindle past glories. Their previous two ties, against Rumbelows, represented little more than dress rehearsals.

The appealing pitch, which will resemble a mudflat before the start and a ploughed meadow by the end, is also sure to provoke errors. United should play on that and provide opportunities for Hughes, particularly through the pace of Sharp on the left flank, to build an advantage.

Sealey may have remained unbeaten in the competition so far but his record means little. United's victims (Pesci Munkas, the Hungarians, in the first round, and Wrexham, in the second) were scarcely able to mount an attack, let alone direct a shot in his direction.

Consequently, he is likely to rely instead on the trusted system with Blanc, the League's second highest scorer behind Papa of Marseille, operating as the sweeper. He plays there for France.

The conditions will not suit Valderrama, the Colombian. The comparison with Gullit is no longer realistic. The South American's loss of form was so dramatic that nobody showed any interest in signing him when he was made available at the end of last season.

Kasperczak is expected to select a more defensive lineup with Ziobor, a fellow countryman who scored the lone decisive goal against Eintracht, and Xuerba carrying the attack.

Fifa has begun looking at ways of improving standards. Blatter said after last year's World Cup that in future all World Cup referees must be professionals and be able to speak English.

They will earn between 60 million lire (£27,500) and 100 million a year, train five times a week, but still be allowed to do other jobs.

Success can, however, only be achieved if the referees themselves take that mental stride towards professionalism," he said in the Fifa newsletter issued this week.

The Italian football authorities decided last month to employ 40 professional referees for first and second division matches in the 1993-

4 season. They will earn between 60 million lire (£27,500) and 100 million a year, train five times a week, but still be allowed to do other jobs.

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4 season. They will earn between 60 million lire (£27,500) and 100 million a year, train five times a week, but still be allowed to do other jobs.

Test epic may be ruined by incompetence

From ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, KINGSTON

COINCIDENCE and incompetence were potentially the ruin of a riveting Test match here yesterday, when inadequate covering eliminated the fourth day's play at Sabina Park for the second successive year.

Eight hours of overnight rain – the first to fall in Kingston for a month – was too much for the plastic sheets which serve as covers here, and a game which had the makings of an epic was heading for stalemate.

England's touring party of 12 months ago will recall the scenario well. After three days of the first Test in Kingston, they were on the brink of a famous victory, with West Indies only 29 runs ahead and eight second-innings wickets down.

Torrential rain destroyed the covers, and the fourth day was lost amid much grumbling over desultory mop-up efforts by the groundstaff. England suffered an agonising 24 hours before the weather allowed them to complete their win on the final morning.

Although the coincidence is bizarre, much more cricket was lost in the game. With West Indies 80 runs on and only two wickets down, even a full last day is highly unlikely to produce a result. The covers had leaked in several places and patches of deep mud,

more than a foot in diameter, were ugly evidence of inefficient protection.

David Archer and Steve Bucknor, the umpires, quickly advised the players of both teams to return to their hotel and after two inspections and some feverish repair work, play was abandoned shortly before tea-time.

Remarkably, the biggest and most effective of the ground's covers had not even been used on the square overnight. Instead, it was covering the practice pitches near the boundary which, as Archer pointed out to the ground authorities, was a futile notion.

"We have told them that there is no point in covering practice pitches if it puts the game itself in jeopardy," Archer said. "We have instructed them in future to use the main cover over the other plastic sheets."

Debate will continue on this issue, which has done Jamaica's reputation as a Test venue further harm. But, with the damage done, neither captain was anxious for a premature resumption on a wet pitch, and understandably so.

WEST INDIES: First innings 284 (A.L. Logie 77 not out, P.J. Dujon 59, C.J. McDermott 5 for 80, M.G. Hughes 4 for 67, Second innings 167 for 5 (D.L. Haynes 64). AUSTRALIA: First innings 371 (C.G. Boyce 105 not out, G.R. Marsh 66, M.A. Taylor 58, S.F. Petersen 5 for 63).

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Badminton loses main sponsor

By JENNY MACARTHUR

WHITBREAD announced yesterday that its 30-year sponsorship of the Badminton horse trials, Britain's most important equestrian event, is to finish at the end of the year.

The surprise announcement from the sport's oldest and most respected sponsor comes at a particularly vulnerable time for equestrianism. Two of the sport's other leading events, Gatcombe horse trials and the Royal International Horse Show, are without a sponsor for this year.

Whitbread's decision to withdraw support was made because of the "changing nature" of its business. Paul Vaughan, the company's sponsorship director, said yesterday, at the company's headquarters in Chiswell Street:

"The business has changed over recent years, particularly in its food and leisure retail operations, and this has led Whitbread to concentrate in the Whitbread round the world race, which starts again in 1993."

The termination of the contract brings to a close one of the most amicable and longest serving horse trials' sponsorships. The company first sponsored the Duke of Beaufort's Gloucestershire event in 1961 when its contribution was £300. Since then Badminton has grown beyond all recognition and now regularly attracts more than 200,000 spectators. Whitbread's last three-year sponsorship contract was for £1 million.

Although Raymond Brooks-Ward, of British Equestrian Promotions, is still struggling to find a sponsor for the Royal International, Gatcombe looks set to go ahead unsponsored. Hugh Thomas, the director of Badminton, is optimistic about his event's future.

"Badminton is the single most prestigious equestrian event that takes place each year... in most markets the best will find a purchaser."

Even with no sponsor the event, which costs around £800,000 to stage, "would run and would run well", Thomas said. If that happened, the British Horse Society, which receives the profits from Badminton, would have to content itself with less than the £150,000 it received after last year's event.

This year's Badminton, from May 2 to 5, for which the prize-money has been increased by 50 per cent with a first prize of £15,000, has attracted the top six riders from the World Equestrian Games held in Stockholm last summer. These include Blyth Tait, the world champion, and Mark Todd, the dual Olympic champion, both from New Zealand, as well as two former world champions, Virginia Leng, of Great Britain and Bruce Davidson, of the United States.

Attendance bookings for the four-day event – which the Princess of Wales will visit on the Sunday – are well ahead of last year.

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